Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-133 *12 July 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Previews Meeting With Ross

JN1107120495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Qazzaz] Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will visit the National Authority areas and will meet President Yasir 'Arafat. What will the Palestinian National Authority discuss with him during this visit?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Dennis Ross will arrive on Wednesday [12 July] evening to meet President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. It is common knowledge that the United States is one of the cosponsors of the peace process. There are intensive U.S. efforts to implement what was agreed upon in Washington, Cairo, and Oslo. The Palestinian side has always asked the United States to play a more active role toward the Israeli side to implement the agreement. As you know, the Israelis are still procrastinating in spite of the intensive talks under way, pending the 25 July deadline. The Americans should assume a greater responsibility and play a more active role to force Israel to honor the agreements it has signed under the auspices of U.S. President Clinton and Egyptian President Mubarak.

[Al-Qazzaz] There is some U.S. insistence or strong U.S. desire to see the signing of a Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

[Abu-Rudaynah] If this is true, then this is good. We hope that the Americans are really interested in the signing of this agreement. What we want is for Israel to implement what has been agreed upon. We are waiting for 25 July to see how committed the Israeli Government is to the agreements it has signed. We hope that the Americans will play a more active role to make Israel comply with the agreements.

[Al-Qazzaz] President Yasir 'Arafat received many Western diplomats over the past two days. On what did these meetings concentrate?

[Abu-Rudaynah] President Abu-'Ammar's message was clear to everybody. He concentrated on the need for Israel to implement the agreements, the need to hold the Palestinian elections, the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Palestinian cities, villages, and camps, and the release of prisoners. Palestinian priorities are clear and specific. They are in line with the agreements and with international legitimacy. President Abu-'Ammar is demanding an honest and accurate implementation of what was agreed upon.

[Al-Qazzaz] Was Australia asked to take part in monitoring the elections which will hopefully be held in the Palestinian territories?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Australia is one of the countries that will supervise the elections, just like many other European and Western nations. Also, the Organization of African Unity will send a representative. The nonaligned group will send another representative. There is room for many countries to take part in the supervision of the elections so as to testify to the fair, free, and democratic Palestinian march.

[Al-Qazzaz] There are reports received from the Gaza Strip and carried by some foreign agencies to the effect that security has been consolidated. What is your comment, especially since international news agencies are interested in the security situation in the Gaza Strip?

[Abu-Rudaynah] From the moment it entered the homeland, the Palestinian National Authority has been exercising its sovereignty. We know that the Palestinian people's awareness is the result of their great eagerness to see their state grow and prosper under the banner of law and order. As you have said, the security situation is very reassuring and very good. There is a Palestinian Authority and there are Palestinian measures to maintain law and order in Gaza and Jericho.

[Al-Qazzaz] Mr. Abu-Rudaynah, thank you.

[Abu-Rudaynah] You are welcome.

Paper: U.S. Grooming Nusaybah for Presidency

JN0807202495 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Where is Dr. Sari Nusaybah? And why has the man who is considered an architect of the Palestinian-Israeli "peace" disappeared from the stage.

AL-MUHARRIR posed this question to a high-level Palestinian official, who said that Nusaybah is now holding the post of director of the security academy, a unit of the Preventive Security Agency in Jericho. He added: It is, of course, illogical for a university professor and a well-known politician such as Nusaybah to agree to work under an officer like Jibril al-Rujub. But this is the truth that must be revealed. However, one must note that there is more to it than meets the eye. Secret information confirms that the presence of the man in this position is a cover for his more important role in the ongoing covert U.S. arrangements to prepare him for the post of Palestinian president in the future, since he has become Washington's strong man in the backstage of the self-rule authority and the PLO.

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Iraq Urged To Ignore U.S. 'Provocations'

MM1007161695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8/9 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Collapse of Last U.S. Card Against Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was not surprising — at least to us — that the U.S. Administration was the only party to reject Iraq's cooperation with international inspection teams and to cast doubt on the importance of its move to reveal the documents and materials relating to its germ weapons program. This administration, the most Zionist and the least respectful of the Arabs and their concerns, has always banked on Iraq's intransigence in order to maintain the sanctions and toughen the embargo, just as it banked on the Iraqi forces' nonwithdrawal from Kuwait in order to deal it a mortal blow. It made all the necessary provocations to achieve that outcome.

It was clear that Iraq wanted to cooperate with Rolf Ekeus and his team and had responded to all his demands, including installing surveillance cameras in its military factories. But it wants to know the limits of these demands and what the last demands will be in order to know when the embargo will be lifted. This is why it made it conditional that Ekeus close the chemical and missile weapons file completely in order to open the germ weapons file and provide all the required answers in that connection.

When the Iraqi Government guaranteed the closure of the other files — and Ekeus stressed this fact in his recent report to the Security Council — it pledged to provide all the required information about nuclear weapons before the middle of this month. The importance of this Iraqi step lies in the fact that it negates all U.S. pretexts about Iraq's failure to cooperate with the international resolutions. It also reinforces the positions of the other states such as France, Russia, and China at the Security Council, as they are demanding that the embargo be lifted.

It was natural for President Bill Clinton's administration to try to thwart this step and to cast doubt on it. When it failed to find any argument to reinforce such an intransigent position, it openly said through its spokesman, Nicholas Berns [last name as transliterated], that it would oppose any attempt to lift the international sanctions imposed on Iraq even if it was forced to use the veto.

The certain thing is that this U.S. threat will turn into a reality at the next Council meeting held to discuss the sanctions. In that case the other states will be free not to comply with the decision to maintain the sanctions. Maybe this is why representatives of French and Russian companies are rushing to Baghdad to sign investment contracts in the oil and other industrial spheres.

What makes it more difficult for the U.S. position is the demand by the World Council of Churches, which has concluded its proceedings in Baghdad, that the embargo be lifted on the grounds that it is immoral and unjustifiable and is inflicting grievous harm on the innocent.

We are aware of the scale of the suffering of the Iraqis — government and people — as a result of the continuation of the embargo. But it is steadfastness — steadfastness alone — that has mobilized all that world sympathy and exposed the inhumane, indeed savage face of U.S. policy against Iraq.

On that basis we demand that the cooperation with the international inspection teams continue and that Iraq is not dragged into the provocations of the United States and its representative at the UN Security Council. Because the aim is to push the Iraqi Government into the kind of reaction that torpedoes all the positive points helping the friendly states in their defense of the principle of lifting the embargo.

Iraq is the victim of a U.S.-Arab conspiracy aimed at breaking its back, destroying the will of its people, and turning it into a marginal and uninfluential state on both the Arab and international levels. But the Iraqis' steadfastness over all these years has thwarted many elements of this conspiracy and achieved the miracle of self-reliance, as has always been the case as far as Iraq is concerned. And Clinton will not prove greater than the Moguls and the Tatars.

Iraqi Envoy Meets PLO's Qaddumi in Tunis

JN1007141395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisia, 10 Jul (INA)—Dr. Humam 'Abd- al-Khaliq, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to the Palestinian leadership and minister of higher education and scientific research, met here today with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The president's personal envoy briefed Faruq Qaddumi on the latest developments of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council and the Special Commission in light of the recent developments.

The meeting was attended by 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah central Committee, and Mundhir Ahmad al-Mutlaq, Iraq ambassador to Tunisia.

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'Arafat Claims Move of Hebron Yeshiva Promised

TA1207053895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yasir 'Arafat says the Shavey Hevron Yeshiva will be moved from the center of Hebron to Qiryat Arba' before elections in the territories. Speaking to a group of left-wing Israelis yesterday, 'Arafat said this had been promised to him by a senior Israeli politician.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 12 July adds: "Sources in Jerusalem deny 'Arafat's comments on a so-called promise to evacuate the yeshiva students from Hebron to Qiryat Arba'. A senior political source in Jerusalem termed this report total nonsense."]

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Process

BR1207111895 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 13 Jul 95 pp 62-64

[Report on interview with Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat by Simonetta Della Seta; date and place of interview not given: "One More Effort, David!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was decision time in Gaza, a night of dilemmas and expectations. The moon lit the sky beneath which Yasir 'Arafat anxiously received advice from everyone, a procession of key men — generals, ministers, diplomats. The Palestinian president was at a crossroads. Shim'on Peres was waiting by the phone. The Israeli foreign minister was due to communicate the time of their next meeting, which was set for Tuesday 4 July and which finally gave a new boost to the peace negotiations before the signing of the agreement planned for 25 July in Washington. The terms were favorable to 'Arafat: Israel agrees to withdraw its troops from six Arab cities, including Bethlehem, Nabulus, and Ramallah, while retaining control of the roads and of the center of Hebron, where there are still 400 settlers.

A few hours before the announcement of the agreement 'Arafat, the old leader of a revolution still miraculously in progress, had a long conversation with PANORAMA, under a fierce neon light. His new office already looks rather shabby. The pressure and haste imposed by events are ever greater. There was an impression of time beginning to weigh heavily and of a desire not to waste words. "We are working not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. For my child, who will be born in less than a month's time" the president said, looking suddenly exhausted. For a moment 'Arafat allowed his thoughts to turn to his wife, Sucha, who has gone to France rather than Gaza to give birth, so as to be near her mother, who lives in Paris. "My father-in-law was very ill and died a few days ago. But I know Sucha; she is a strong woman." How much room will there be in this 66-year-old's life for a child being born on the threshold of the year 2000? How much room will there be for this baby in the life and mind of a leader who considers himself everyone's father, the only major leader of an entire nation, as he has always wanted to be regarded by both friends and adversaries? "I always speak frankly with all my opponents," 'Arafat boasted. "I think that at last they have taken the people's and the country's interests into consideration. It is no coincidence that for over two months there have been no terrorist acts against Israel. Let us be frank: I am absolutely opposed to those acts, as I have shown. They ruin our peace agreement, they destroy it. But some common sense seems to have emerged. Basically, we are not asking for anything but for them to pledge themselves, like the rest, to the people's own good. And of course will we let everyone take part in the elections: Are we or are we not a democratic state that wants to build a democracy? And in any case could we ever prevent them from being active; could we decide whether they should be for or against? There is only one thing that I demand: They must respect the political rules."

[Della Seta] Do you respect them fully? Many people, including some of your closest aides, often warn you about your tendency to concentrate power, if not to engage in an actual process of militarization. The Gaza court, for instance: Mrs Hanan Ashrawi, who now directs a human rights office, asked you explicitly to close it, considering it illegal.

['Arafat] The definition, "military tribunal," is inaccurate. It is a "State Security Court." This is something that exists in many countries. They are temporary bodies and serve certain purposes, especially at times of transition. You must understand: We have urgent cases that cannot be resolved using the slow procedure of civil courts.

[Della Seta] Do these cases concern the opposition movements, too?

['Arafat] Public and internal order. I repeat: We prefer dialogue with the opposition, including the Islamic groups. And when we cannot succeed on our own, we get help from various mediators. Many have done this. We have appreciated their work, and the results can be seen. ['Arafat ends]

The president pointed out that he has succeeded in eliminating — at least for the present — further terrorist activities on the part of fundamentalist cells. "This is why," he protested, "we cannot understand Israel's

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attitude. They wanted a clean slate. Well, we have given one to them. But now matters must be finalized; we have an agreement to conclude; we must achieve an honest implementation of the pledges made. No, these are not empty words: There are deeds, promises, and many words on paper."

[Della Seta] There are many pledges in the Oslo document signed in August two years ago, but many unresolved problems too.

['Arafat] But the principle is clear: The Israelis must withdraw from all the occupied areas and leave us free to hold our first elections. Instead they are playing for time, being evasive, and maneuvering. I am sure that they are doing this because of their domestic anxieties. They are hiding behind [as published] their anxiety about what their most fanatical groups, and especially the settlers, might do.

[Della Seta] Do you not think that the presence of dozens of Jewish settlements in the heart of the area to be evacuated constitutes a real problem for Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] All problems can be resolved if you have the courage to proceed. After all, did we not call this "the peace of the brave?" We were well aware that it was not easy. Now we must move forward. People will become frustrated if matters drag on too long. ['Arafat ends]

The final obstacles can be seen on the map. There was a huge map hanging in the room next to 'Arafat's office. Military officers examine it. They draw lines on it in colored pencil, then erase them. It is a map in Hebrew on which the Israelis are working, too. Topographers are doing their utmost. The map is worn out by marks that appear, then disappear: roads connecting the Jewish or Palestinian zones, crossing points, and road blocks. They will be monitored by Israeli or Palestinian patrols.

'Arafat continued welcoming all his guests with a big hug. His face wore a questioning but firm expression, as always. "It is my nature," 'Arafat told PANORAMA. "I am a born fighter and optimist. I did not get scared even in the most difficult and disastrous circumstances." I was reminded of Lebanon. It rather embodies his whole personal history of escapes, gunfire, and rubble . This man enveloped in his black and white kefiah could be merely one of the last living symbols of an era and of the Cold War. But he has adapted to the times. He has never given up. His life has been devoted to fighting but also to bringing about change. A sharp and provocative expression again appeared on his tired face: "The peace process is in any case not only a Palestinian necessity, but also definitely a necessity for Israel, America, Russia, and — why not? — Europe and Italy. What happens in the Middle East influences the entire Mediterranean basin. You know something about that." His message to Europe was partly a means of requesting aid. Is there an economic crisis? It is often said that the Palestinian authority's deficit is huge. "We are covering it," the president assured us. "We are grateful for this also to all the donor countries and to certain economic mechanisms worked out with the Israelis." "This often happens out of the limelight," 'Arafat pointed out, "but for the Palestinians Italy remains a most important partner."

We were for years the leading country investing in economic cooperation to support the occupied territories. Now, during the reconstruction period, we are second only to Japan, and allocate a budget of over 50 billion lire to the Palestinians. "You continued helping us even during your own political storms," the president smiled: "That is a record!" This is why the Palestinian leader has no preferences for any particular Italian government. And, with the attitude of a great and impartial commander, he said that he does not fear a change of government in Israel. "Am I afraid of the 1996 elections? Why? We did not sign an agreement with a government or a party. Let us not forget that in Madrid we sat next to Shamir, the then leader of the Likud Party."

If the Likud Party were to return to power certain battles would become tougher. That over Jerusalem, for instance. "The future capital of our state," 'Arafat repeated, like a slogan. The present urgent situation demands pragmatism: "Not dreams, but deeds. We are in a crucial situation." His interests — different from but convergent with those of another grand old man, Yitzhaq Rabin, have enabled him to regain a small piece of land, to put together almost an army, and to command as an equal and a sovereign. But in Gaza there is more confidence than doubt. It is a matter of deeds, as 'Arafat said, but also very much of attitude. And the Palestinians' ideas are often hasty and are often confused with national feelings.

The political dilemma is under control now. But what about the future?

Qaddumi: Israel Violated Accord, Ruined Peace

NC1107125695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1224 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 11 Jul (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, "Abu-al-Lutf", the head of the PLO Political Department, today declared that Israel has violated the main provisions of the Oslo Agreement and thus ruined the foundations of the political settlement.

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He added that, according to the Israeli scheme, the interim period will doubtless stretch for several more years under security pretexts.

Qaddumi said he believes that during this security-related prolonging of the process, Israel will tighten its grip on the West Bank and Jerusalem by building more settlements, encircling the major Palestinian towns, and isolating them from nearby villages. He explained that in this way Israel hopes to keep the Palestinian economy under its control.

He pointed out that this Israeli policy will doubtless infringe the Palestinian people's national rights and deprive them of their legitimate right to self-determination in their own homeland.

Qaddumi emphasized that to guarantee a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, you must recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights and Israel must respect the foundations on which the political settlement was begun.

Qaddumi urged the Palestinian people to continue their national struggle.

PLO's Abu-Mazin: Israel Obstructing DOP

NC1007140095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1250 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 10 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas Abu-Mazin has accused Israel of obstructing the implementation of the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] by adopting an intransigent position on redeploying its forces outside the West Bank's populated areas. Israel says this is for security reasons and fear for the lives of Israeli settlers.

Upon his departure from Tunis for the Palestinian territories to begin his political activities there, he declared that Israel exaggerates the security issue to the point that it infringes on the Palestinian rights spelled out in the Declaration of Principles. These include the redeployment of Israeli forces outside the populated areas and allowing elections so that the Palestinians can have democratic self-rule and the Palestinian police can take over responsibility for security and public order.

Abu-Mazin said that Israel's insistence on granting privileges to the settlers that are not included in the Declaration of Principles obstructs the confidence-building process and delays the implementation of the second phase of the agreement.

He called on Israel to release thousands of Palestinian detainees, who are being held without a valid reason, to bring comfort to their families, and to reassure the Palestinian public. He said this would boost the peace process.

Abu-Mazin stated that the measures favoring the settlers and the allocation of various security areas show that Israel is not committed to the Declaration of Principles. Further, it is violating the provision calling for withdrawal from all Palestinian populated areas, without distinguishing between areas. He added that Israel has no right to demand their return to these areas after the Palestinian elections.

Noting that the Palestinians are demonstrating their commitment to the agreement but still need time to build their own institutions and maintain security, he criticized Israel's demand that they prevent all anti-Israeli operations. Abu-Mazin said this is impossible to guarantee and pointed out that the Palestinian Authority [PA] does its duty and handles security better now than it did at the beginning. He said Israel wants the PA to do more than is possible, and even the United States, Russia, or Israel itself cannot completely stop such operations.

Abu-Mazin stated that the obstacles Israel is putting in front of the agreement will cause a delay that will not help the peace process; but, this does not mean the process will stop. He explained that the peace train may be delayed, but it will eventually reach its destination because peace benefits the Palestinians, the Israelis, the regional powers, and the world, including the United States.

He said serious efforts must be made to reach an agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles before 25 July. He noted that many obstacles and problems need to be eliminated and that the negotiators may face new, unexpected obstacles.

Abu-Mazin stressed that the Palestinians must not make any concessions other than the ones they made in the Declaration of Principles. He said he is not denying that the Palestinians made concessions in the Declaration of Principles but any new ones would spell the end of the Declaration and a return to the vacuum that had lasted for 50 years.

He said the Declaration of Principles will be successful if Israel views it from a strategic perspective that shows it wants to coexist with the Palestinian people, not from the perspective of someone who is afraid of and does not trust the Palestinians. He explained that if Israel opens its arms and heart to the Palestinian people, they will reciprocate. The saga of enmity between the two nations will end and thus, there will be no security worries. The ball is in Israel's court.

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Abu-Mazin called on the United States to be a partner to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, just as it did during the Syrian-Israeli chiefs-of-staff talks in Washington. He said it must not remain a neutral spectator but offer ideas, explore positions, and stop bargaining. This way, it can help the two sides come closer to each other.

Abu-Mazin said progress in the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track or the Lebanese-Israeli track will not hinder or harm progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Abu-Mazin pointed out that some Israeli negotiators have said the Oslo Agreement is unfair and therefore, it may get to the point that they will reject this agreement. He added that if this happens, he will be disappointed, as the peace process could end if such thinking prevails in Israeli circles.

Regarding the Palestinian position on the Israeli Arabs who contributed to the Israeli Government reversing its decision to expropriate Palestinian lands in East Jerusalem to build settlements on them, Abu-Mazin said we consider these brothers who have Israeli citizenship an integral part of the Israeli peace front, alongside the peace movement that has 12 Knesset members in the Israeli Knesset. We can rely on these Arabs be the bridgehead on which to build Palestinian-Israeli peace.

Regarding Israel's request to hold a meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to amend the PLO Charter, Abu-Mazin said: We told the Israelis that the PLO Executive Committee accepts amending the Charter as stipulated by the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. He pointed out that this matter will be presented to the PNC when it meets.

He affirmed that the Palestinians will not back down on any of their commitments. However, this requires time and the appropriate circumstances, as well as a new political situation and further progress on the negotiations.

Abu-Mazin added that Egypt is performing its duties well in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and that it supports and bolsters the Palestinian people's rights. Further, Egypt has never adopted a neutral position or one of a mediator. It has also not pressured the Palestinians to accept Egypt's views.

Abu-Mazin stated that in previous negotiations with the Israelis with an Egyptian delegation present, the Israelis' dissatisfaction with the Egyptian views and mediation was clear. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declared this many times.

Abu-Mazin added that this Egyptian role is useful and suits Egypt's status. It is playing the role that the United States should have also played.

Regarding coordination and meetings between the cordon states [the Palestinian areas and the countries bordering Israel] restarting, Abu-Mazin commented that we need to return to Arab solidarity and hold the Arab summit that was planned for Rabat. This meeting could have succeeded and started an Arab expanded summit. He hoped the Arabs would begin to think seriously about holding an Arab summit to restore Arab unity, overcome and resolve their past differences, and turnover a new leaf, which would make a united Arab position effective and have international value.

Hamas Denies Reducing Anti-Israel Military Acts

JN1207075895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 27

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—QUDS PRESS—The Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has denied statements reported by the Israeli media citing THE NEW YORK TIMES as saying that the movement has reduced its military activity against Israel in favor of political action.

In a statement by a responsible source, the movement said that "none of the movement's officials made any statement to the aforementioned paper, something which refutes such statements and proves that they are unfounded and fabricated."

The U.S. paper had cited a Hamas security official whom it did not name as saying that his movement's order of priorities has changed in favor of political action and reducing anti-Israeli armed attacks.

The Palestinian source said that those reports are part of a campaign to distort the movement's position on the conflict with Israel. The source stressed that "armed struggle" is still the basis of the movement's strategy.

Economist Claims Banks Smuggling Funds Abroad

TA1107084135 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has accused the banks operating in the territories of smuggling funds abroad instead of investing them in West Bank and Gaza Strip projects. A senior Palestinian economist said that the banks have so far smuggled about $500 million abroad. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] The PA is concerned about bank activity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Its data shows that these banks transfer large amounts of money abroad

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for investment instead of investing them in the territories. Muhammad al-Nashashibi, the official in charge of the PA's finance portfolio, said that the banks harm the Palestinian economy by not encouraging development and investment. He charged that the banks encourage the residents of the territories, who hid their money during the Israeli occupation, to transfer it abroad. In the next few days, the Palestinian finance ministry is going to issue regulations ordering the PA's banks to make known the value of the monthly deposits and the transfers they conduct.

Dr. Muhammad Sarsur, a senior Palestinian economist and deputy President of Bi'r Zayt University, said that the banks have so far transferred abroad a total of $500 million. The bank managers in the territories deny the charges. The manager of a bank in the territories said that only 15 percent of deposits are by inhabitants of the territories while the rest comes from Palestinians working in the Gulf states or other countries.

The Arab Bank, which opened its branches about a year ago, has so far given out loans to the tune of $15 million, he said. The Arab Bank's manager blames Israel, saying it permits banks in the territories to keep only a certain amount of funds while forcing them to transfer the rest abroad. This is especially the case with banks in the West Bank, which is still under Israeli control.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians, Israelis Reach Accord in Cairo

NC1107213295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the talks on the transfer of powers in the West Bank from the Israeli Administration to the Palestinian Authority have reached agreement on eight areas. This was stated by Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the National Authority and head of the negotiating Palestinian team. He added that a joint formula was reached in the fields of labor, petroleum, gas, agriculture, local government, statistics, trade, industry, insurance, and posts.

The Palestinian chief delegate said the agreement will be signed in Cairo in the next two days. He said the agreement will be signed after it has been shown to the Palestinian and Israeli political leaders.

This round of the Palestinian-Israeli talks was scheduled to last four days, but reaching an agreement and the importance of submitting it to the Palestinian and Israeli leaders ended the negotiations early and the Palestinian delegation left Cairo for Gaza. Observers believe there is a link between the talks which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Erez checkpoint between the Gaza Strip and Israel and the success of the Cairo talks. Besides, Cairo's contacts with the Israeli Administration in the last few days helped overcome the obstacles that were delaying this agreement and also had delayed the implementation of the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles for more than nine months.

Italy Scrapped as Talks Venue

TA1207064995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Palestinian talks on the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] redeployment and Palestinian elections will not be held in Italy but in our region. Yasir 'Arafat wants the talks to be held in the area in order to make it easy for the delegations to consult with their leaderships. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Jerusalem sources believe the talks will start on Friday, 14 July, at the Erez checkpoint, al-'Arish, or Taba.

PA Negotiator on Proceeds Payments

NC1207061895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2217 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA] and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks, has stated that the Israeli side must commit to making the financial proceeds payments to the PA, which amount to about $12 million per month.

This evening, before departing Cairo with his delegation after the 8th round of talks on the transfer of powers from the Israeli Administration to the PA, al-Tarifi said the transfer of these powers without the financial proceeds will be futile; we must know our share in the water.

Also, this round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on the transfer of powers to the PA in the fields of water, electricity, and communications was scheduled to last for four days. However, it concluded this evening after the two sides had reached agreement on the transfer of powers in eight spheres.

Oren Shahor, the Israeli Government's coordinator in the occupied territories and head of the Israeli negotiating team, left Cairo this evening after taking part in the Palestinian-Israeli talks for the transfer of powers to the PA, which concluded this evening.

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PA's Sha'th on Outcome of Cairo Talks, Deadline

TA1207070095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Progress has been reported in negotiations between Israel and the PLO on transferring civilian authority to the Palestinians in the West Bank. After the 10 hours of talks, Foreign Ministry Director General [title as heard] Yo'el Singer said there were some few details to iron out. He said that agreement could be reached within days.

Palestinian Authority [PA] official Nabil Sha'th, meanwhile, told Amy Rhodes that the discussions which were held in Cairo yielded some very positive results.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] Well, you know there are about eight empowerment areas that have been really worked on for a long time. They have been promised actually last March, and probably every one of them has one or two little flaws that need to be agreed upon, what we call I's and P's: Israel's position and the Palestinians' position. Most likely we will go on and try to finish the transfer of authority together with the redeployment and the elections. However, if we reach an agreement on the eight that were agreed upon, we may be able to start early empowerment on them while at the same time writing them in a way that allows combining them with the other authorities, so that all authorities will then be transferred once we sign the whole interim agreement.

[Rhodes] Now, talking about the whole interim agreement and the issues of redeployment and Palestinian elections, can you tell us when you expect the resumption of negotiations?

[Sha'th] In a way negotiations have never been interrupted. The negotiations in Cairo are going along without interruption, and there was talk about sending the rest of the delegation to Italy, which we really are not very comfortable with. Italy is a friendly country and all that, but we don't feel that there is any need to leave Israel, Palestine and go all the way to Italy at this stage of the game.

[Rhodes] Do you believe the July 25 deadline will be met?

[Sha'th] Well, I think that's what we hope to be working to achieve. Now, if one would predict whether this is going to stick or not, I think it's going to be very hard unless we really all exert a real extra effort to do that. The question is.... [pauses] The text has not yet been agreed, the maps have barely been presented, and had we really done all that effort five or four months ago, we certainly would have finished, but we were very lazy in starting that kind of intensive negotiations. [end recording]

On Prisoners, Hamas, Security

NC1007211095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation with the Palestinian Authority [PA], has announced that no agreement will be signed with Israel if the problem of Palestinian prisoners and detainees is not solved and a clear timetable for their release is not set.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Tuesday, Dr. Sha'th said that the 25 July deadline set for signing a Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington is changeable and not sacred. For the Israelis, he said, dates always have objectives, but for the Palestinians, dates are primarily linked to the achievement of Palestinian demands and interests, and commitment to dates does not come first.

Sha'th explained that the PA refused to sign an agreement with Israel on 1 July because Israel put pressure on the PA to make concessions on items included in the Declaration of Principles and placed many obstacles in the way of implementing important and necessary clauses.

He said: We are now going through a stage of serious negotiations. Before, the Israelis rejected the principle of serious negotiations and ignored deadlines because they ignored the negotiations in the first place.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that some balance of interests exists between what Israel wants in terms of security, stability, and a normalization to stabilize its relations in the region, and what the PA wants in terms of the liberation of its territory.

On Palestinian readiness for the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, Dr. Sha'th said: We, as the PA, have been present in the West Bank for some time in the form of the Preventive Security forces and heads of schools and hospitals.

He welcomed the declaration by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that it is forming a political party, saying this is a positive step.

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He said the PA welcomes the signing of a written and documented agreement with Hamas in the presence of witnesses from abroad, stating that all Hamas members will enjoy security and safety provided that no terrorist operations are carried out for one year, after which the position on the peace process is to be evaluated.

Concluding, the Palestinian official warned against an Arab rush toward Israel in a way that gives it what it wants without the Arabs getting what they want. If they do this, he said, the Arabs will lose their strong cards with which they can apply pressure.

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Algeria

FIS Official Assassinated in Paris

NC1107182595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1819 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear viewers, we have just received this urgent report from Paris. It says that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Sahraoui, an official in the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], was assassinated in the French capital this afternoon.

Presidency Statement on Contact With FIS Leader

LD1107183495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement published this afternoon, the presidency of the state recalls the process followed by the transition authorities regarding the dialogue, a process inspired by the platform of consensus adopted by the national conference and which defines the outlines of the political system that Algeria should consolidate a democratic and republican system guaranteed by a constitution that would be the sole reference. The line to be followed would then be a national dialogue without exclusion. This is a principle reaffirmed several times by President Zeroual.

In this line of thought, the presidency of the state taken into account a letter from Abassi Madani [leader of Islamic Salvation Front — FIS] sent from his detention place and dated 9 April 1995. In the letter, the leader of the dissolved FIS expressed his wish to work for a solution to the crisis and put forward measures which he believed necessary for this purpose. After an examination of the letter, contact was established with Abassi Madani by presidency staff members and this was followed by a series of talks. There was a debate on measures to be taken: abandonment of violence, respect of legality, adherence to the principle of pluralist democracy, and a gradual introduction of a clemency process. The final version of these principles was written by Abassi Madani.

An approach was then proposed to the latter: making an appeal [by Madani] for a cessation of the acts of violence, such an appeal would be followed by the release of all the leaders of the dissolved FIS, who would accept adherence to this proposed solution. This would then be followed by a deadline accorded to the armed groups to lay down their weapons. Once this phase finished, the leaders of the dissolved party [FIS] would return to political activity under a new name on the principles already accepted by Abassi Madani, principles that will respect the framework and the tenets fixed for dialogue, and respect of the democratic and republican political system. Once these principles are seen to be observed, legal provisions of mercy and clemency by the state would be carried out vis-a-vis the persons implicated in violence.

Abassi Madani had then wished to associate other officials of the dissolved party. He received Abdelkader Hachani, Boukhamkham, Jeddi, Ali Belhaj, Guemazi, Omar Abdelkader. This group was able to have discussions in private for about one month, and on 19 June 1995 this group made its position known in two ways: release of a document on the one hand, and on the other hand it made claims. This group has put in question the whole range of principles to which Abassi Madani had committed himself, and it then asked for the simple release of the leaders of the dissolved party before any cessation of violence, and before even an appeal for such a cessation. The presidency considered such claims as of a partisan nature. Abassi Madani and his fellow-prisoners then made a continuation of discussions conditional on their release beforehand, or their being put under house arrest. The presidency of the state then accorded an additional deadline to those concerned for them to rectify their position, and in the face of a persistance by those concerned in the same attitude, useful conclusions have been drawn and the necessary measures taken on 10 July 1995.

These are the facts of this episode, stresses the statement of the presidency, an episode where a glimpse of hope had appeared, but which, in the end, has had the same ending as the preceding process that had followed Abassi Madani's letter dated 23 August 1994. The statement of the presidency of the state concludes by quoting a speech made by the head of state on 5 July 1995: It is now to everybody on the national scene to assume their responsibility before God and before the Algerian people, and to judge for themselves the good faith of all the parties.

Fundamentalists Blow Up Gas Pipeline Near Algiers

LD1107133695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been an attack in Algeria. Islamic fundamentalists have blown up a pipeline which brings gas to Algiers. The explosion took place on Sunday night 90 km from Algiers, according to the Algerian press. Toufik Ben Aishush reports:

[Ben Aishush] The explosion was huge and the flames could be seen from a distance of 30 km. Fortunately, nobody was injured but there was a lot of damage. The newspapers also say that another armed group blew up a gas distribution station in Blida on the same night; a lot of damage was done, but there were no casualties. [passage omitted]

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Car Bomb Explodes Near Justice Ministry

LD1107134195 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, a car bomb exploded early yesterday morning in Bab El Oued area [in Algiers] in front of the Justice Ministry. Nobody was injured and there was only little damage. Another car bomb was defused nearby.

President Zeroual Reshuffles Regional Governors

LD1107200995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been announced in a state presidency statement that the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, today made changes in the governors' ranks. The changes affect the following provinces:

Annaba: Mourad Brahim succeeds Mustapha Mansour, who was recently appointed as minister of the interior, local communities, environmemt and administrative reforms;
Laghouat: Hassan Hamadeche succeeds Mustapha Kouadri, who was recently appointed as director general of civil defense;
Oum el-Bouaghi: Omer Hattab succeeds Mourad Brahim;
Tipasa: Abdelouahab Laroussi succeeds Hassan Frikha;
Relizane: Brahim Lamhel succeeds Abdelouahab Laroussi;
Mascara: Hocine Ouaddeh succeeds Rabah Ould Ammar.
Ghardaia: Moukhtar Othmani succeeds Khereddine Cherif;
Bordj Bou Arreridj: Abdelkader Bouazki succeeds Habchi Mahkoun;
Constantine: Mohamed Ghazi succeeds Brahim Djeffal;
Bechar: Mohamed Sandid succeeds Mohand Said Chkini;
Tebessa: Zoubir Bensabban succeeds Abdelkader Attef.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly Considering Appointing Vice Presidents

NC1107143895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak is currently considering the appointment of one or more vice presidents, expected to be from the military. Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi is expected to top the list of candidates.

Reports advised Mubarak to settle this matter after the aborted assassination attempt in Addis Ababa in order to spare the country a political vacuum if something else happens.

The president showed noticeable interest in the report and accordingly decided to go to Alexandria to consider his options. However, he did not have any consultations with people close to him, opting to wait until he makes his final selections. These selections are expected to involve more than one vice president, who will be entrusted with important constitutional and political tasks in the coming period.

The president has decided to tighten the circle of his advisers, particularly after experience showed problems with their selection.

President Mubarak has held consultations in the past two years to select a vice president. But these consultations stopped abruptly.

In another development, Israel has renewed its request for cooperation with Egypt in the security field, claiming that there is a need for urgent joint action against "terrorist" centers in the Middle East (as Israel puts it.)

Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist enemy's prime minister, has sent urgent messages to President Mubarak, U.S. President Bill Clinton and a number of Arab leaders, emphasizing the need for an emergency meeting in the region to face up to the Islamic groups. He suggested Cairo as a venue for that meeting.

Terrorist Rabin suggested that heads of state and government should take part in the meeting, designed to come up with joint, effective measures to confront groups that indulge in violence. This would be through striking at what he called "terrorist bases" in states that harbor terrorists.

The U.S. President has approved most of the suggestions Rabin made in his message. He pointed out that the U.S. Administration will make special efforts to persuade Arab parties to agree with Israel on a joint operation against the "terrorist bases" in the region.

Political circles interpreted this as a strike against Sudan.

Embassy in Khartoum Requests Release of Egyptians

NC1107144795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum has submitted an official memorandum to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry asking it to carry out an investigation and quickly release the Egyptians who were

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recently detained indiscriminately without any reasons having been given. Informed sources say that the requirements for Egyptians travelling to Sudan have not been defined yet, and it is not known if they will be asked to have an entry visa to Sudan in light of the visa requirements and residence permits Egypt has recently imposed on Sudanese nationals.

Sudanese Arrest 2 More Egyptians

NC1107160695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 11 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities today arrested two more Egyptians working for Egypt Company for Reinforced Steelwork, Kamal Shibl Abu-al-'Azm and Barsum Nasif. This brings the number of this company's employees who have been arrested so far to eight, including three engineers. The arrested persons are engineers Ahmad Hamid 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, Midhat Sadiq 'Atiyah, and Ayman Ahmad Fu'ad and employees and technicians Faruq Taha Mubarak, Mahmud al-Rashidi, and Sayyid Khalid, in addition to the two arrested today.

The Sudanese authorities obtained the passports and airline tickets of the eight employees from the company's branch in Khartoum to prepare for their extradition to Cairo, expected on Thursday [13 July].

Meanwhile, the Sudanese authorities released the company's director, Engineer 'Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif, who was arrested Saturday, on health grounds. The director underwent delicate brain surgery recently.

Forgery Materials Found in Parcels Bound for Sudan

NC1107162895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Technical inspection of the support equipment for terrorism which the State Security succeeded in seizing inside some parcels coming from Pakistan on their way to Sudan through Cairo International Airport on 10 July 1995 has revealed the extent and amount of sophistication that has occurred in the methods used by the terrorist organizations abroad in faking travel documents and personal identity cards using very advanced and sensitive technologies. The objective behind these methods is to bolster infiltration operations into Egypt and other countries and to use these countries as sites to plan and carry out terrorist operations while preventing the security organs from monitoring or uncovering them.

Within this framework, when the computer discs were loaded onto a computer and the material recorded on them was able to be read, the following things were found:

— Prints of the Sphinx's head printed on a plastic sheet to be used as a watermark on the detail page of the regular Egyptian passport, in addition to the patterns that were printed on the old Egyptian passports in the form of a watermark.

— Egyptian stamps used for consular procedures and for issuing passports and personal identity cards: 50 mils stamps; police stamps of the 1-pound, 30-piaster, and 20-piaster denominations; 1-pound consular stamps obtainable from the Foreign Ministry; the Foreign Ministry's 1.40-pound stamp for adding a country or person to the passport; 5-piaster stamps for developing financial resources.

— The Police Department's emblem.

— Special prints of the cedar tree which is the emblem of the State of Lebanon, printed on plastic sheets. This is placed on the information page of Lebanese passports in the form of a watermark.

Examination of the documents and papers that were found among the terrorism support equipment parcels also revealed the following:

— Documents belonging to the World Relief Organization, which is a part of the World Muslim League; they belong to its al-Shariqah and Mecca bureaus as well as the regional bureau in Pakistan.

— Papers belonging to al-Bunyan Center for Islamic Information in Peshawar, Pakistan.

— Papers belonging to the Afghanistan Embassy in Islamabad.

— Copies of rubber stamps belonging to some official Saudi entities, including the director of the foreign offices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

— Copies of rubber stamps belonging to some official Pakistani parties, namely the notary public for the Peshawar Municipality Court in Pakistan.

— Blank certificates of work experience issued by the Islamic Relief Organization in Pakistan and the Arab Media Club, Peshawar, Pakistan.

— Blank work contract forms of the Islamic Relief Organization in Peshawar in Pakistan.

Examination of the discs also revealed that the addressee of the parcel, Ibrahim Abu-Hasanayn, lives at al-Jumhuriyah Street in Khartoum, Sudan. His telephone number is 78075.

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Al-Baz Gives Lecture on Peace, Terrorism, Sudan

NC1207075095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2200 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 11 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has said there is noticeable progress in the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said he hoped that the pace of progress would quicken.

In a lecture he delivered at the British Royal Institute for International Studies in London today, Dr. al-Baz accused Israel of wasting a lot of time and warned it against wasting more time in the talks. He pointed out that more details are needed in the Syrian- Israeli talks. He added that the best way for these talks speed up is for the two sides to discuss the details now and negotiate the differences so that an agreement can be reached.

In his lecture, attended by a number of Arab and British politicians and diplomats, Dr. al-Baz noted that the Middle East negotiations are behind schedule. He added that the Palestinian elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops, and the start of the Israeli withdrawal from Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron were supposed to begin this month.

Turning to the Israeli settlements, Dr. al-Baz said completing the stages of negotiations will undoubtedly consolidate the position of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and enable it to enter into further negotiations with Israel on the future of the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, the return of the Palestinian refugees, and other issues that are on the talks' agenda. He described the Israeli settlements issue as a complicated one, requiring great effort by research institutes. He called on the British Royal Institute for Political Affairs to present an opinion on this, particularly concerning the future of Jerusalem, which he said was in the interest of the three heavenly religions.

Dr. al-Baz stated that if Israel continues to think that Jerusalem is Israel's unified capital, we will say the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians have historical and spiritual rights to Jerusalem. We want these rights to be unified under these three religions, as well as through the flow of individuals, goods, and trade. He added: We now want to think seriously of a way for the city to be a living symbol of the three religions. Dr. al-Baz added that the idea of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is unacceptable to the Arabs. He said: So far, there is no formula for Jerusalem and the proposals that have been presented on Jerusalem are inadequate.

He called on the Israelis to be open-minded on this, noting that he had suggested to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat that groups be formed to look into the future of Jerusalem so that this could be resolved in the negotiations. Also, these groups' proposals should focus on the need to reach an agreement on Jerusalem's future.

Further, Dr. al-Baz said the pace of negotiations on the Syrian track is not what was expected. He noted that the Syrian-Israeli talks are going through various stages, including Israel's withdrawal from the entire Golan, establishing peaceful relations between the two countries, and making security arrangements. He was confident that the two sides would agree on the matter. Dr. al-Baz explained that the differences between Syria and Israel are being negotiated and added that more time is needed; there is a difference between the Sinai and the Golan.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized the need to achieve peaceful coexistence between the Jews and the other religions and peoples in the region. He also mentioned that historically, Jews and Arabs lived side-by- side in Spain until the Jews were expelled. He added that coexistence with the Jews is not difficult from a historic and ethnic viewpoint. Also, there are no cultural differences that would make coexistence impossible.

Dr. al-Baz voiced the need for a settlement between Israel and Lebanon. He added: We are paying great attention to the Lebanese track of the negotiations. Describing the situation between Lebanon and Israel as less complicated than other situations, he pointed out that Israel is concerned about security in south Lebanon. He said this can be discussed and negotiations can begin now.

Dr. al-Baz referred to the challenges of the post-peace era. He pointed out that the Middle East market idea, which Israel proposed, continues to make the Arabs suspicions. He noted that there may be other ideas for general, regional economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of security, disarmament, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, water resources, and other aspects of cooperation. He said it is more important to establish close inter- Arab cooperation first. He pointed out that Israel needs to integrate with the Middle East countries and consider itself one of them, rather than a European state, as it now believes. It also needs to change its view of the Arab states; namely, that Israel has the brains and the ability to manage while the Arabs have the resources, manpower, and Gulf money. He described this Israeli notion as mistaken.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that international cooperation, particularly in the commercial and economic fields, is now conducted by economic blocs. He noted the

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European Union, Japan, China, and the United States as examples of this.

He added that Europe has a great responsibility because of its close ties with the Middle East. He said: Europe is closely linked to the region, any development in the region affects Europe. He called on Europe to seriously contribute to comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to play a more effective role.

Dr. al-Baz cautioned Europe against failing to make a serious contribution, particularly because terrorist operations in the Middle East also affect Europe. He emphasized that Islam is not the new enemy of Europe or the West, stressing that terrorist operations have nothing to do with Islam. He added that the idea that Islam has replaced communism as the enemy of the West is wrong and that Europe must understand this. Anyone who says this does not understand Islam, he said.

Al-Baz pointed out that the expansion of terrorism in the region is not Islamic; it is the result of several complex problems that have local and foreign dimensions.

Dr. al-Baz advised Europe not to think of America as its peer in the region. He explained that Europe's prosperity largely depends on stability in the Middle East.

In his lecture, Dr. al-Baz said most Palestinians support the elections, noting that even Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has realized this support. He referred to the actual, tangible assistance European countries are giving to the PA, as well as to the presence of the 700 international observers who will supervise the elections and give them credibility. He emphasized that holding the elections will give further strength and support to the PA's position.

Regarding Egypt's role in the peace process, al-Baz stated that Egypt is experienced in negotiating with Israel and that it uses this experience to work actively and assist the Palestinians, as well as the Syrians and Lebanese, in every way possible. He added that it does not matter if Egypt plays a central role or not. Egypt is interested in comprehensive, regional peace and is working voluntarily to assist brothers in their negotiations with Israel. Also, Egypt knows how the Israelis think, in case unexpected problems arise during negotiations.

Al-Baz continued: The Palestinians came to us when they found themselves in a hopeless situation. Egypt did not force itself on the Palestinians; it coordinated with them and helped them step up efforts. Negotiations came later on.

Warning against an incomprehensive peace, Dr. al-Baz said such a peace would be fragile. He stressed that Egypt is interested in achieving comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Baz said Egypt welcomes contributing to progress in the negotiations. He pointed out that Egypt's role will not end by signing agreements between Israel and the states involved in negotiations with it. The Egyptian role will continue until the Middle East is free of weapons of mass destruction and until arms in the region are reduced, he said. He added that Egypt will take on this role whether or not that role is described as central. He hoped that no regional state would own nuclear weapons. He called on Israel to respond and work to avoid nuclear proliferation.

He added that it is in the interest of the region to make Israeli citizens feel safe, as long as they are going to be integrated with regional people. He believed Israel can be integrated in five to eight years. This would be very good to do, particularly if we recall the years of fighting between the Arabs and Israel, he said.

Responding to questions, Dr. al-Baz remarked that Arab states learned an unforgettable lesson from the second Gulf war, which is the need to avoid war between two Arab states.

He added that Egypt rules out fighting with an Arab state, Sudan or any other. Further, if the war with Israel is over and we are working to consolidate peace and prevent the use of force against any country, then it is illogical for us to fight another Arab state.

Al-Baz continued: We oppose the Sudanese Government's policy that threatens Egypt's security. We see Sudan as giving us strategic depth, just as we give to Sudan. He said this regarding the smuggling of weapons and the export of terrorism to the region that the Sudanese regime is involved in. He stated that Egypt has many alternatives to war and that it will not harm a single Sudanese citizen.

Dr. al-Baz called for reviving the pan-Arab movement that had suffered a great deal in the past, starting with Syria's separation from Egypt. He said every Arab citizen has a sense of belonging to pan-Arabism and that this should be taken into consideration.

Dr. al-Baz arrived in the British capital yesterday on a four-day visit for talks with British officials.

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Al-Baz Deplores Sudan's Arbitration Bid

NC1207055595 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, by Fadi Isma'il on 11 Jul; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Baz] The fact that Sudan is resorting to arbitration means that some tension exists. It also means that we are turning to foreigners to settle a situation that involves Egypt and Sudan. This is unacceptable. Such matters are settled between us and Sudan. We sincerely believe that neither Sudan nor Egypt needs additional territory. Thank God, both countries are rich with land. Sudan is the biggest African country in terms of area. We consider all Egyptian territory to be for the Sudanese just as we see all of Sudan as being for the Egyptians. When I go to Sudan, I do not see myself as being in a foreign country.

[Isma'il] What do you want from Sudan?

[Al-Baz] We want the Sudanese Government to do one thing, to stop tampering with Egyptian national security, stop assisting active terrorist groups, and stop thinking it can control the Arab world through Egypt. It should not use Egypt, the land of al-Azhar, as a springboard to jump on the rest of the Arab world. This is wishful thinking and it will never happen. Arab countries are not that weak. Further, Egypt is not fair game for a group of people who think they can change it from a safe, moderate state that hosts a minaret of Islam, thought, and freedom into a country built on a sectarian and racist movement that advocates terrorism, killing, and forcing its views on others.

Al-Jihad Member on Sudan's Role in 'Terrorism'

NC1207104295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—A leading member of the al-Jihad Organization has revealed Sudan's role in supporting terrorism. He added that the Sudanese Government provides services to the terrorist groups in Sudan without exception.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, 'Atif 'Abd-al-'Al, an al-Jihad leading member, mentions a farm in Khartoum where terrorists are trained. Also, the farm's earnings, in addition to the Sudanese Government's payments, finance the terrorists. He noted that several of the group's members collect passports so that members from Egypt can travel to a hideout in Khartoum. These passports are later given to Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Vanguards of Conquest group. He then gives them to another person named Sabir Hajjaj. Hajjaj wipes out the entry visas of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sudan to allow entry into Egypt and other Arab countries. He also forges identity cards so that organization members can move around freely.

'Abd-al-'Al said organization members in Khartoum possess false rubber stamps of official Egyptian Government administrations and agencies with the eagle symbol on them. They also have blank forms of military service certificates to fill in.

The leading member of the al-Jihad Organization, who has returned from Sudan, said the Khartoum farm used to shelter terrorists is huge. It is approximately 80 feddan in area and is surrounded by a fence. It includes a two-story building with several rooms. The leaders of the organization live in a house in an affluent section of Khartoum, the district of the embassies. This is less than 2 km from the international airport. The leading figure mentioned that the one-story house has two large rooms, a living room, and two bathrooms. It is a well-furnished house and is rented by the al- Jihad Organization for one year at $1,000 [as received]. He added that Ayman al-Zawahiri visits the house occasionally. The house is also frequented by some Sudanese, who bring al-Zawahiri with them to meet Sudanese Government officials.

'Abd-al-'Al explained the methods of military training received by the organization members in Sudan, including military intelligence, surveillance, the use of explosives and booby-trapped cars, and sniping. There are also special courses for shock troops, paratroopers, and motorcycle riding. And, members of the organization use an import-export office, called al-Firdaws, in Khartoum's commercial section, as a front for their actual activity. The office, he added, is on the fifth floor of a building in this area.

The al-Jihad leading member stated that the actual leader of the organization is a pharmacist named Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al, who lives in the embassies district. And, while al-Zawahiri is known to the media, 'Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Al is the commander who runs the terrorist operations. He noted that this organization is in contact with the Salvation Front in Sudan, which is led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, adding that the organization has benefited from fugitive Saudi multimillionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin to cover its operational expenses and to spend on its members. He pointed out that Bin-Ladin is knowledgeable of the schemes that aim to strike at Egypt.

He noted that al-Zawahiri has opened and personally runs a number of offices of the relief organization in areas of military conflict, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, and others. He has sent two of his aides to

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recruit members for the organization and collect money to cover his activity.

'Mastermind' of Attack on Mubarak Still Free

NC1007200795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 10 Jul (MENA)—Security sources in Addis Ababa said today that terrorist Siraj Muhammad Husayn, the suspected mastermind behind the failed assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak on 26 June near the airport of the Ethiopian capital, is still free. The Ethiopian security authorities are continuing the search for him.

The authorities are still publishing pictures of the terrorist in most of the Amharic-language newspapers, hoping to close the noose on him.

The Ethiopian security services also continue to tighten control on the entrances and exits of Addis Ababa in an attempt to track down the other terrorists involved in the attack on President Mubarak's motorcade. The total number of terrorists involved is between seven and nine. Five of them have been killed so far, two during the attack and three later.

Arab nationals leaving Addis Ababa, especially Sudanese, Yemenis, Algerians, and Egyptians, are still subject to strict security measures, and their fingerprints are taken before they are allowed to board aircraft.

A security source at the office in charge of taking Arabs' fingerprints said that the fingerprints of all Arabs, especially nationals of the aforementioned countries who entered Addis Ababa before 26 June (the day of the attack) are being taken to make sure that they have no links to the assassination attempt.

The source said that this measure is taken even if they hold correct passports. He said the Ethiopian authorities are eager to find any leads to discover the remaining culprits.

Because of these strict measures against travelers departing Addis Ababa, many of them, especially Egyptians, go to Ethiopian police stations days before their departure to have their fingerprints taken and so avoid being detained at the airport or missing their planes.

Further on Participants in Attack

MM1107150695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "AL-HAYAH Reveals Identity of Two Perpetrators of Attempt on Mubarak"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — It seems that the mystery surrounding the identity of those who carried out the attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa on 26 May [as published] is about to be eliminated. It was possible yesterday to reveal the identity of two of those who carried out the operation, for which the Islamic Group in Egypt claimed responsibility in a statement that AL-HAYAH published last Wednesday. The statement did not name any of those who participated in the attempt.

Members of the council defending those accused in religious violence cases watched a video filmed by Ethiopian authorities. It contained pictures of five people who were killed in Addis Ababa, among them two who were killed during the operation. Three were killed inside house No. 950 in area No. 16 in district No. 7, east of the Ethiopian capital, in an attack by the Ethiopian police. Egyptian television showed the film a few days ago.

Well-informed sources have pointed out that two of those killed belong to the military wing of the Islamic Group in Upper Egypt. They are Husayn Shunayt and Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman, who fled Egypt a few years ago for Afghanistan. They moved to Peshawar (Pakistan) before leaving for an unknown destination following the Pakistani authorities' expulsion of the "Afghan Arabs" living on Pakistani territory illegally. The sources stressed that Shunayt was a prominent member of the Islamic Group's military wing in Qina. And that 'Abd-al-Rahman was member of the organization in Asyut. The sources said that the photographs distributed by Ethiopian authorities and carried by news agencies, which were said to be photographs of Muhammad Siraj, the mastermind who planned the attempt on Mubarak, are in fact photographs of Muhammad Shunayt himself, who was wounded during the operation. He was killed in a battle with the Ethiopian police a few days later.

The sources denied that the five killed include Mustafa Hamzah, a prominent Islamic Group leader, whom Egyptian authorities believe is the planner of the violent operations carried out by Islamic Group members in Egypt. Cairo stresses that he is currently in Sudan. As is known, Hamzah is the only one against whom two death sentences have been passed in absentia through two military courts. He was convicted in two cases: "those returning from Afghanistan" in December 1992 and the attempt on Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif in May 1993.

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Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas

NC1107183995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, immediately after the latter's arrival in Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's envoy to the Arab League.

Discussions dealt with the Palestinian issue and the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

'Abbas Comments on Meeting, Peace Talks

NC1107210695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Following his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight, PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, said he extended congratulations to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian delegation on the president's escape from the recent failed attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Abu-Mazin praised the Egyptian guards who managed to defend and protect President Mubarak and his delegation.

He said the talks dealt with the ongoing negotiations on the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement about redeployment and elections.

'Abbas added that the Palestinian delegation hopes that the talks will succeed despite the existing difficulties and the distinct gap between the Palestinian and Israeli stands. He noted that the two sides are serious in their efforts to reach agreement, adding: We hope this agreement will be achieved soon.

He pointed out that the most significant obstacles to negotiations are, first, those concerning the Israeli forces' redeployment. According to the Declaration of Principles, he said, the Israeli forces are supposed to withdraw from populated areas on the eve of the elections. He noted that the Israelis are trying to cheat and not to implement the agreement.

The second point, he said, is the elections and Israel's interpretation of the Jerusalem residents' participation in the elections. He noted that the Israeli interpretation is illogical and not in harmony with the spirit of the Declaration of Principles.

Mahmud 'Abbas said he cannot discuss dates for the Israeli forces' withdrawal or for holding elections before reaching an agreement, without which it would be a mistake to discuss such dates.

Abu-Mazin said U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross' current tour of the Middle East is focusing on the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese- Israeli tracks.

Asked about the change in the venue of the Palestinian-Israeli talks on redeployment and elections, he said he has no idea about it and that no Palestinian official mentioned this.

He added that there are talks between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to reach a common stand based on democracy.

'Abbas said that during their meeting in Austria the day after tomorrow, Thursday, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will inform Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres of the eagerness to reach a conclusion based on the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

'Abbas concluded his statement by emphasizing that inter-Arab differences will affect the general Arab position and the Arab negotiators.

Libya

'Mujahidin' Reportedly Involved in Banghazi Clashes

MM1107122995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — The AL-ANSAR bulletin, which is close to the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria, has said that recent clashes in the Libyan city of Banghazi were between security forces and "mujahidin."

The bulletin said that "an armed clash occurred in Banghazi between a group of mujahidin and security forces, resulting in the wounding of one of the mujahidin, who was taken to the hospital under guard. The wounded brother was rescued by the mujahidin from hospital to the security elements' surprise. He was moved to a farm."

The bulletin added: "A group of security elements headed by Major al-Khashmi attacked the farm in a bid to arrest the mujahidin, who resisted, using all the ammunition in their possession. Four attackers were killed and al-Khashmi was shot in the chest and legs. He was moved to the intensive care unit. Residents of the city rejoiced at the news, which eased some of their despair and revived their hope about a possible confrontation."

The bulletin went on to say that in another incident the security forces "launched a search campaign in

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eastern Libya during which some mujahidin brothers refused to be taken hostage, so an armed confrontation occurred between them and the security forces, resulting in the death of brothers shaykh Abu Yahya, Wahid, and Shaddad. These brothers were on their way to carry out some jihad tasks. We do not know the scale of the enemy's losses yet."

Concluding, the bulletin said: "Shaykh Abu Yahya participated in the Afghanistan jihad and played a prominent preaching role among mujahidin ranks. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Iraq's Saddam

LD1207092495 Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Nasir [July] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution yesterday received Humam 'Abd-al Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghapur, the Iraqi minister for higher education and scientific research, as a personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn.

The envoy delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to the leader of the revolution within the pattern of Iraq's efforts for lobbying to confront the resolution of the so-called Security Council who claimed that Iraq did not obey the council's resolution despite the response of Iraq to these resolutions.

President Saddam's envoy praised Libya's role in uniting the sons of the Arab and Islamic world in confronting the aggressive plots targeting the Arab and Islamic nation.

He stressed the continuation and importance of this role and emphasised Libya's efforts to heal the rift between Iraq and Iran and acting acting as a mediator in respect to certain outstanding issues such as the exchange of prisoners of war and ending hostile activities between the two countries. He also stressed Libya's efforts in reconciliation between Iraq and Syria.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister

LD1107201095 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Doncho Donchev Konakchiev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of rural development and constructions, and his accompanying delegation who are partaking in the proceedings of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian joint committee. The meeting was attended by the brother secretary of the general people's committee for agriculture.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry: Egypt Provoking Citizens

EA1107165795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian regime's forces continue to provoke and pressure Sudanese citizens in Hala'ib province in a futile attempt to force them to leave. To achieve this they have used every means including preventing them from getting drinking water. This was announced by the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Awad al-Karim Fadlallah, at the ministry's regular press briefing today. He said all these were attempts to escalate the tension between the two countries. He added that Egyptian forces recently expelled a group of Sudanese students after detaining and torturing them so as to force them undertake activities hostile to their country. He said the Egyptian authorities were continuing their campaign of escalation as attested to by the imposition of visa requirements on Sudanese entering Egypt, contrary to earlier arrangements. He said Sudan had decided not to undertake similar measures, adding that Sudan's doors would remain open to Egyptians.

Referring to the stories fabricated by the Egyptian media concerning Sudan's administrative attache in Cairo, His Excellency said the embassy had issued a statement on 10 July stressing that the items imported by the administrative attache included no communications equipment and that it was known that the consignment was opened by the Egyptian authorities without officially informing the Sudanese Embassy. The embassy stressed that the action was dangerous and violated diplomatic norms.

His Excellency announced that Sudan had sent a memorandum to the UN Security Council calling on Egypt to accept arbitration in resolving the problem.

The first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry also announced that rebel John Garang, accompanied by Deng Alor [Garang's representative in Cairo] and (Yashwan Adot), had left Nairobi for Kampala on their way to Cairo to participate in what was described as important meetings with officials of the Egyptian regime. This, he said, was another piece of evidence of Egypt's close ties with the so-called Sudanese opposition.

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Minister Denies Jordan, Syria Asked To Mediate With Egypt

JN1207090695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 25

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahdi Ibrahim, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, has said that his country will keep its border open before Egyptian citizens and all Arabs. He said that his country will not respond in kind to the Egyptian Government's move against Sudanese citizens, and that any Arab or Egyptian citizen can enter the Sudanese territory any time without an entry visa.

The Sudanese minister denied any mediation between Egypt and Sudan by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to resolve the recent dispute which emerged between his country and Egypt in the wake of the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Ethiopia.

He also denied that Sudan asked Jordan to carry out any mediation. He said: "The brothers in Jordan and Syria know what is going on in the Sudanese-Egyptian arena. They are absolutely eager to clear the Arab atmosphere. There is nothing that requires asking them to mediate."

On his meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, on 10 July, Minister Mahdi Ibrahim said that his highness the crown prince and Jordanian officials have warmly welcomed him and showed profound understanding and awareness.

On the regional situation, especially at this delicate stage, he said that efforts should be pooled to clear the Arab atmosphere and move to a new stage of solidarity and cooperation so that the deterioration can be stopped in the interest of the Arab nation.

Foreign Minister on Egyptian Visa Restrictions

EA1107131395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has stated that the measures taken by the authorities of Husni Mubarak's regime — on the imposition of entry visas for Sudanese nationals travelling to Egypt — do not serve the historic relations linking the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

The foreign minister told MBC television station that Sudan will be launching a diplomatic move to brief Arab countries on its own stand concerning the campaigns which Husni Mubarak's regime is escalating against Sudan. Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha said that the coming days will see the turning of a new page in Sudan's relations with the Arab states of the gulf.

For his part, justice minister and attoney general 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu said Egypt's actions against Sudan made it look as though it was groping in the dark, and displayed a lack of wisdom. He said these actions contradict all internatioal norms, conventions and agreements. He stressed the need to report the matter to all international organizations and expose all designs against Sudan.

Meanwhile, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the minister of culture and information, announced that the measures taken by the Egyptian regime's authorities over entry visas for Sudanese nationals travelling to Egypt will not be matched with similar measures by Sudan. He stressed that Egyptian citizens in Sudan will continue to be respected and welcomed, will be able to reside in Sudan without any prior authorization and will be allowed to enter without any prior visa.

Mr. Sabdarat said the Egyptian decision is meant to prevent contacts between peoples, but will not turn Sudan away from its principles, the unity of the two peoples of the Nile Valley, and the eternity and inevitability of contacts between them. He pointed out that, since it has been in power, the National Salvation Revolution, out of its faith in Arab unity, has resolved to disregard visas for Arabs wishing to visit Sudan, and open its door to them without any conditions or restrictions.

'Source': Diplomats Under Egyptian Surveillance

EA1107190395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian authorities have renewed their provocations against members of Sudan's diplomatic mission in Cairo since yesterday by threatening them and putting the military attache and three counselors at the embassy under open surveillance. A vehicle belonging to one of the embassy's counselors was damaged [word indistinct] when two vehicles belonging to the Egyptian Government's state security apparatus deliberately rammed it as he was driving home from his office.

A source at the Foreign Ministry said the Egyptian security apparatus was making various kinds of threats and harassing our diplomatic mission in Cairo. The source said such harassment violated diplomatic norms and legal rights.

The source said the Egyptian authorities had used similar hostile methods against our diplomatic mission in the past, adding that the current harassment had

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taken a new turn in that the diplomats' wives and families were receiving threatening calls. Moreover the diplomats' homes were being kept under constant open surveillance by Egyptian security personnel, who addressed them using obscene and foul language.

The source said the Egyptian regime was responsible for our diplomatic mission's security and demanded an immediate end to the irresponsible harassment.

Army Spokesman on Detering Border Incursions

EA1107125195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier Muhammad al-Bashir Sulayman, the official spokesman of the armed forces, has revealed that there are designs against Sudan, and that the ruling regimes of Egypt and Eritrea, urged on by foreign powers hostile to Sudan, are involved in them. However, he said that in accordance with the instructions and wishes of the forces that strive to achieve their strategy in this region these activities would not go beyond provocation.

In a statement published today by the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI in Khartoum, Brig. Sulayman said that the designs are being fully monitored. His excellency also confirmed that the armed forces are ready to deter any security penetration of the Sudanese borders.

Further on Spokesman's Interview

AB1107133395 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 11 (AFP) — Sudan is prepared to fend off any military action from across its border with Eritrea, Army spokesman General Muhammad al-Bashir Sulayman said Tuesday.

Sulayman, in an interview with the government daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, warned of a "plot against Sudan being harboured by Egypt, Eritrea and others..."

Sudan "is closely monitoring every activity and every military movement and is fully prepared to deter any border security infiltration," Sulayman said.

"Eritrea is mistaken if it believes it can affect the morale of the Sudanese Armed Forces by gathering the elements of treason and hired agents," he said, referring to a meeting of Sudanese opposition groups in Asmara in June.

Asmara cut off relations with Khartoum in December, accusing it of backing subversive action in Eritrea.

Sulayman blasted Egyptian moves in the disputed border region of Halaib on the Red Sea as "armed robbery." Egypt "has cast aside the ties of neighbourhood, blood and religion," he charged.

Khartoum accuses Egypt of having killed two Sudanese policemen and an army officer in clashes in Hala'ib in late June and of taking steps to annex the desert region which both countries claim.

Relations between Cairo and Khartoum have turned to crisis since Egyptian President Husni Mubarak accused Sudan's Islamic regime of backing the attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa on June 26.

AL-ANGAZ AL-WATANI cast scorn on the Arab League, blasting it for "inertia" in the dispute between Egypt and Sudan, two member states of the organisation.

The League "has always opted to remain on the fringes of the events," the paper said, noting the organisation's "absence" from the civil wars in Yemen and Somalia and the 1991 Gulf conflict after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The paper denied reports that Khartoum had asked for the League's mediation in the crisis, saying the organisation "will not embark on an independent action of any consequence."

On Monday [10 July], the League's secretary general Esmat Abdel Meguid said Egypt and Sudan were "willing" to calm the crisis, after a meeting in Cairo with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Finance Minister Reports Economy Improving

EA0707201395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The finance minister, Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, pointed out that the inflation rate was 113 percent before the eruption of the revolution.

This came in a press conference the finance minister held on Wednesday [5 July] at the Finance Ministry. [passage omitted]

The gap in the balance of payment has been covered through the [word indistinct] (?remit transfers) of expatriates, exports, revenues, adding that all countries are suffering from economic stagnancy, especially following the Gulf war.

Cost of the war in the south is 5 billion Sudanese pounds annually [words indistinct]. He referred to success of the privatization policy and its attraction to many foreign investors.

The finance minister affirmed that the economic situation in Sudan is improving remarkably, referring to implementation of the three-year economic program and

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adoption of the self-reliance policy following a stoppage of foreign aid to Sudan.

Tunisia

Iraqi Minister Arrives in Tunis on Visit

JN0907194095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 9 Jul (INA)—Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, Iraqi minister of higher education and scientific research and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, arrived in Tunis today.

The president's personal envoy will convey a message from his excellency to his brother the Tunisian president. The message concerns ties between the two sisterly countries and the latest developments in the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

Conveys Message on Ties, UN

JN1007134195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 10 Jul (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Bin Ali received Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy and minister of higher education and scientific research.

The president's personal envoy conveyed an oral message from his excellency the president to his brother the Tunisian president on the developments of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council and the Special Commission in light of the recent developments. The message also deals with issues of cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The meeting was attended by Mundhir Ahmad al-Mutlaq, the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Ben Ali Receives Saddam Letter

LD1007180095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a letter from President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. It was delivered to his excellency this morning at Carthage palace by Mr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research, the personal envoy of the Iraqi president to his excellency the president.

The personal envoy said that this letter was about the developments between Iraq and the UN Security Council regarding the implementation of Resolution 687 in the light of the last report submitted last month to the Security Council by Mr. Ekeus, head of the special committee.

The personal envoy added that he conveyed to President Ben Ali President Saddam Husayn's regards and best wishes to the Tunisian people. He said that the meeting was also an occasion to discuss relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by the chief secretary of the Presidential Office and the Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Western Sahara

Polisario Secretariat Holds Extraordinary Session

LD1107112295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information issued a communique last night. It said that on 9 July, President Mohamed Abdelaziz chaired an extraordinary meeting of the Polisario Front's National Secretariat. This meeting assessed the struggle of the Saharan people at the domestic and international levels and examined a report by the UN mission to the region and the content of Resolution 1002.

On the occasion the Saharan president expressed his satisfaction with the Saharan people's support for the Polisario Front's decision to suspend its participation in the identification of voters until its legitimate demands are met.

The communique adds that, following this meeting, President Mohamed Abdelaziz sent Bachir Mustapha Sayed as a special envoy with letters to the UN Security Council and to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. He also sent messages to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya since, their two countries are observers in the UN peace plan in the Western Sahara; and to Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the OAU.

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Bahrain

Minister: Country 'Targeted,' Must Remain 'Alert'

MM1107135795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Hasan al-Luqays: "Bahrain Information Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: We Must Be Alert Because Our Country Is Targeted"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama — Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', Bahraini cabinet affairs and information minister, has said that "Bahrain is targeted because it constitutes one of the links of the Gulf structure, on the grounds that it is part of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. Thus we should be alert and not give anyone any chance to tamper with the country's security."

Minister al-Mutawwa' told AL-HAYAH that "there is stability in Bahrain. It is safe and life is normal. But it is also targeted."

He said that "those who embarked on the riot and subversive actions in the country are a group which society has exposed. Society is aware of this group's contacts with foreign quarters. Bahrain has evidence to prove this."

He also said that "these parties still exist, and I do not rule out that their aims still exist. Thus we have to be cautious and alert."

On the detainees and the trials he said: "Anyone involved in the riot actions was arrested and interrogated. There are degrees of involvement. Those whose involvement was minor were released. But those who committed crimes of murder were taken to court, because there is a law which protects the state and provides protection and defense for the defendants. This is what happened, and sentences were passed by the courts, because society's protection is a fundamental issue that cannot be neglected."

On the border dispute with the State of Qatar, Minister al-Mutawwa' said the Manama summit adopted resolutions on ways of resolving border disputes between GCC states bilaterally and through the council's mechanisms. If that does not happen, the problem should be referred to the Muscat summit, scheduled to be held in December. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Bosnian Official on Country's Efforts To Help

LD1007222595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1828 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Jul — A Bosnian official has said that Kuwait has promised to exploit its relations with its allies to apply pressure to provide the necessary means for repelling escalating Serb aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian official is Naim Kadic, ambassador to the State of Kuwait, who held a news conference in Kuwait, in which he confirmed Kuwait's intention to move quickly and to the best of its abilities to cooperate with fraternal and friendly states and look into suitable measures that can be taken to end the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He added: "Senior Kuwaiti officials emphasized that Kuwait is completely on the side of Bosnia to help the Bosnian people remove the suffering caused by hostile practices, especially the more recent ones."

He noted that Kuwait "has exceptional potential to help us, particularly in political forums and in humanitarian supplies." [passage omitted]

Joint Military Maneuvers With U.S. Troops Begins

LD1007163695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 10 Jul (KUNA) — Kuwaiti and U.S. troops today launched joint military maneuvers to test and raise the combat readiness and capability of the Kuwaiti soldier.

The exercises, called "Iris Gold 3/95," will last till 23 July.

The exercises come within the framework of a defense agreement concluded between Kuwait and the United States four years ago to train the Kuwaiti armed forces in modern combat armament and equip them with advanced weapons. Kuwait has similar agreements with Britain, France, and Russia.

Since Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi invasion in 1991, the Kuwaiti army has carried out a series of exercises with U.S., British, and French troops within the framework of agreements signed with these countries.

Radio Reports on State Security Court Abolished

LD0907174895 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its weekly session this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Salah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

After the meeting, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister, finance minister, minister of state for the Council of Ministers' affairs, and acting

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planning minister, said that on the basis of the directives of his highness the amir, may God preserve him, the council has examined a draft law for cancelling Law No. 26 of 1969, amended by the decree-law No. 10 of 1991, for setting up a State Security Court, due to the nonexistence of the justifications and circumstances that warranted the creation of this court, provided that all cases referred to it, or examined by it, be referred to the criminal court.

The council has decided to approve the aforementioned draft law, and refer it to the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

Constitutional Crisis Over Article 71 Questioned

95LH0179B Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
30 May 95 p 24

[Editorial by Muhammad Bakhit: "If Government Is Entitled To Interpret Article 71, What Justifies Objection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is something: If protocols are going to be approved in one go, then what is the justification for behind-the-curtain meetings? More than 10 protocols have been approved and not a single esteemed member has explained whether they are or are not actually against Kuwait's interest or has given a justification for delaying them all this time!

A witness from the assembly has attested that the government is entitled to appeal to the Constitutional Court to provide an interpretation of the said article and that the government will accept the court decision, whatever it may be. This epitomizes the sporty spirit shown by the government! However, the parliament got its (ideas) from some voices that said a few days ago that crises give them "fuel" and that they live on crises, but not with crises? Where are those voices that made their statements after that lengthy session, which was interrupted with a hasty approval of the protocols, now? The government should not have suspended its thought and intellect and should not have left the task to those who only pour oil on the task's fire whenever they feel like it. All of Kuwait held its breath, not for fear that the assembly would be dissolved but that this political tremor would become the topic of conversation of the ordinary Kuwaiti citizen. It held its breath for fear that the two authorities would be preoccupied with the tremor and would forget their duties and the rights they owe this small country that is targeted from every side, as happened on 2 August [1990] when the neighbor to the north laid open the land and the honor and when half this nation went to the desert to seek life and survival after it had encountered death and torture for the first time on the soil of Kuwait, the country of peace and reassurance.

The nation feels anxious, and anxiety has become the crowning touch in the hearts of all Kuwaitis, both young and old, rich and poor. The presence of this anxiety is an ill omen and the harbinger of the devastating danger of which the nation has become aware instinctively. It is a danger that poses a threat to the nation and to the citizen's safety and security. It even threatens the citizen's happiness and his feeling of satisfaction with the performance of the two authorities. The citizen sees practices that would be better uprooted. It would be behooving that all efforts unite to uproot them from the hearts. Anxiety could be a strong motive to overcome the fear complex that has nested in the hearts of many of this country's citizens who still fear for their homeland. Saddam, the tyrant, has rebuilt his army and has supplied it with mass destruction weapons and other weapons. He has purchased weapons valued at billions of dollars, not to mention a striking naval force in the Arab Gulf, including submarines. God knows what sort of fuel these submarines use. These are the fundamentals of the anxiety and uncertainty among the people.

Among all peoples, anxiety is a strong motive to learn, if the two [executive and legislative] authorities create the appropriate climate. The exception is our country, where anxiety has been entrenched in the hearts because of issues that are not marginal. But this is not the right time to raise these issues while the country is threatened by dangers from every direction.

Anxiety has taken the firmest possible hold at all levels, especially the economic, military, and even psychological levels. (If this anxiety is lost, the country and those who are in it will be lost???). This is noticed at the individual level. It is noticed in the glazed glances, in the enlarged eye pupils, and in the increasingly sweaty brow and palms. This is what I saw with my own eyes by visiting more than one private social gathering throughout more than 60 days. I waited for the appropriate time — the time past midnight — when everything was quiet and when people received what I proposed easily and expressed what was on their minds.

I intentionally chose people with limited incomes who have nothing but this small salary, which they collect at month's end, and a lot of small children. Anxiety and uncertainty were evident on everybody's face. They feared for the homeland on the one hand and for themselves and their children on the other. Most of them wished they had enough money to buy property out of Kuwait to secure themselves and their families and to move away from the political crises that storm the country from time to time. The most that can be said about these crises is that they are a waste of time and effort. Prohibiting smoking as an initial step in the interpretation of Article 71, chickens slaughtered in

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a manner incompatible with the Islamic shari'ah, and other such trivialities have been enough to bolster this feeling of anxiety among citizens.

Also, there are political motives of which many in high and low places are unaware. I will recount these motives very briefly; perhaps I will succeed in clarifying the concept of this article and the reasons for the citizens' anxiety for their land and honor.

One's various motives, needs, and desires are of great importance in directing one's attention and interest toward things that suit him, wishing they would materialize immediately. Rather, these things may become an obsession that keeps one sleepless day and night and until they are eliminated or at least taken up by the people in charge and with the power of decision-making.

For example, a hungry man is more interested in restaurant signs than in the signs of shops. A thirsty man is also more interested in shops that sell juices than in other shops.

One who has lost reassurance for himself, his children, and his country looks to the state, its military power, and its domestic front to unite, develop an understanding, and sacrifice in the face of the challenges and dangers that rise here and there in the region and that threaten the country at all times. Therefore, the citizen may react as soon as he perceives a danger he cannot see. But he is certain the danger is present and that it will be coming if efforts do not unite to confront it, whether at the official or the popular level.

One walks along a dark road alone, and, if one feels fearful and insecure, one tries to disperse this feeling by talking to one's self, by whistling, or by clapping hands to spread joy and happiness in one's soul. But where are the two authorities' endeavors to spread reassurance and to eliminate anxiety from among the people, if the government is right to appeal to the Constitutional Court to interpret Article 71 of the Constitution.

I say that the citizens are fed up with the muscle-display approach in the parliament and they are fed up with those who try to drag the assembly to side battles that will compel the assembly to run in place and not advance one step forward because of such battles. Come let us say a word of truth, namely that we must all turn into a shield protecting the country.

Dual Containment Keeps Gulf Alert

95LH0179A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
30 May 95 p 24

[Editorial by Dr. Ibrahim al-Hadban: "Protection of U.S. Interests in Gulf as Seen by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has clarified the U.S. policy on protecting U.S. interests in the Arab Gulf. In an address to the New York Foreign Relations Council on 18 May, Perry pointed out features of the "dual containment" policy followed by the United States in the region vis—vis Iraq and Iran. In this article, the writer will try to shed some light on the dimensions of this policy.

To begin, Perry notes that the U.S. policy in the region is based on three points:

—First, a permanent presence in the region.
—Second, the presence of bilateral relations between the United States and six countries in the region.
—Third, permanent readiness to move to confront any emergency.

Perry pointed out that the objectives of the "dual containment" policy are to "contain, curtail, and isolate the violent aggressive conduct" of Iraq and Iran and to apply this policy along three axes:

—First, strengthen the defensive capabilities of each Gulf state separately.
—Second, strengthen the defensive capabilities of the Gulf states collectively through the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council].
—Third, maintain a concerted U.S. military presence in the region.

The U.S. secretary pointed out that several steps have been taken to improve the region's military capabilities and that these steps have been divided along four axes:

—1. The presence of advance U.S. forces in the region, operating under the umbrella of an international alliance that helps the United States carry the burden and that strengthens the chances of international participation if a crisis develops.
—2. U.S. keenness on the presence of military equipment and weapons in the region at a high level of readiness that permits their immediate use by the U.S. forces in case of emergency.
—3. The conclusion of six U.S. accords with the region's countries to permit the use of their ports and airports in case of necessity.

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—4. The presence of plans ready to implement in case any emergency develops, with capability to modify these plans, if necessary, according to the prevailing circumstance.

In the course of his address, Perry pointed out that the Gulf region is important because it contains two-thirds the world's oil reserves and because there are in this region two aggressive states, namely Iraq and Iran, which represent a danger to their neighbors and to Israel. They are also among the countries that embody the threat of nuclear proliferation.

In my opinion, the reasons that motivated Perry to view Iran as a source of danger are embodied in several indicators, namely:

—A. Iran's maintenance of a military force on the islands close to Hormuz Straight, where 90 percent of the Gulf oil passes, and its deployment of a force of several thousand on these islands.
—B. Its maintenance of antivessel artillery and missiles, and even chemical weapons, on these islands.
—C. Its purchase of some submarines and of some patrol boats that carry antivessel missiles.
—D. Its endeavors to acquire nuclear technology.
—E. Its promotion of terrorism against Israel and other countries.
—F. Its opposition to the Middle East peace process.
—G. The fact that it poses a constant threat to the region's countries.

All these elements make Iran (from Perry's viewpoint) an element of instability in the region—an element that must be isolated and contained.

A reader who examines U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's address carefully finds in it determination by the U.S. administration to contain the Iranian and Iraqi policy or to contain the two Iranian and Iraqi "threats," as viewed by this administration. Iran's failure to climb into the "peace" wagon; its threat to oil exports; its support for "terrorist" organizations; and its danger to the stability of the region's countries make it a target of "U.S. containment" and put it in the ranks of enemies, not friends, of the United States. These Iranian threats represent conventional threats with which the United States can deal. However, the biggest danger lies in the possibility of Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons, which could turn Iran into a real threat that is difficult to control. This is why the United States has tried to persuade Russia and China to establish controls for nuclear cooperation with Iran and not to sell it the technology that enables it to acquire nuclear weapons. The boycott imposed by the U.S. administration against Iranian oil falls (in my opinion) at the lowest rung of the ladder of options available to the United States, which may resort to severer and harsher options to ensure that Tehran does not acquire nuclear weapons.

We can also conclude from the degree of U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the region's countries that the United States is keen on the uninterrupted flow of oil from the region without any threat from Iraq or Iran. This keenness gives the region's governments and peoples some sort of reassurance.

The negative side of this policy is that the region's countries will be compelled to remain in a constant state of alert and mobilization because of the escalation imposed on the region and because of the policy of continued confrontation against Iran and Iraq. This poses a threat to the economic capabilities of the GCC member states and makes the sole objective of the GCC's presence a security objective that may result in denying the region's peoples and governments the opportunity to achieve a greater degree of economic, cultural, and social integration and cooperation.

Qatar

Yemen's Salih Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1107151095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A round of official talks was held at the Amiri Palace in Doha today between the Republic of Yemen and the State of Qatar. The talks were cochaired by Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. During this round of talks, the two leaders reviewed brotherly bilateral relations, developments in the Arab and international arenas, and efforts to restore Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived at Doha International Airport at 1145 today leading a high-level delegation on a two-day official visit to the fraternal State of Qatar at the invitation of his brother Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. [passage omitted]

Upon arriving at Doha International Airport, brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made the following statement to the Qatari News Agency: We are pleased to visit the fraternal State of Qatar at the generous invitation of my brother Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani in order to hold talks with him on issues of interest to the distinguished relations between the two fraternal countries and on all current developments in the regional, Arab, and international arenas that are of interest to our Arab

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nation and to do what we can to promote joint Arab action to achieve Arab solidarity.

He added: We are pleased by the growing brotherly relations between the two countries because such a development will meet the aspirations of the Yemeni and Qatari peoples. We also wish to further develop these relations toward a more fruitful cooperation to achieve the mutual interests of the two fraternal countries. We highly appreciate the genuine pan-Arab position of the Qatari amir, government, and people, as well as fraternal Qatar's support for our Yemeni people and their unity—a support which our Yemeni people always appreciate and which epitomizes the profound brotherly relations between our two fraternal countries.

Concluding, the brother president said: The visit will undoubtedly give us the chance of renewing our congratulations to my brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on his assumption of power in the country, and we hope that he and officials of fraternal Qatar will suceed in achieving further progress and prosperity.

Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had left Sanaa for Doha, with God's care, at the head of a high-level delegation on an official visit to the fraternal State of Qatar to hold talks with Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on bilateral relations and developments in both the Arab and international arenas. He was seen off by senior civilian and military officials.

Before leaving Sanaa, he made the following press statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA': We begin our tour of several fraternal countries, hoping that the tour will give us the chance of holding consultations on several bilateral, regional, and international issues in light of the international changes that require the Arab leaders to hold consolations. He added: The Arab situation has become unsatisfactory because of differences that have affected the cohesion of the Arab entity, as well as the overall economic developments. This should prompt the Arab leaders under current circumstance to face up to their pan-Arab responsibility, to discuss effective mechanisms to overcome the negative aspects of the past stage, and to explore horizons of a new stage of solidarity and understanding in order to solve these differences in brotherly ways.

He also said: This tour will also enable us to promote bilateral relations and spheres of cooperation on all levels and to brief the leaders of the fraternal countries on our continued efforts to eliminate damage caused by the war that was triggered by the secessionists and on the achievements of Yemen in its new era, thanks to our people's steadfastness and their rallying around unity, which epitomizes their present and future state of affairs. He then voiced his confidence that the tour will further enhance brotherly ties and expand spheres of cooperation between our country and the countries which he will visit. [passage omitted]

Salih, Amir Hold Talks

JN1107184095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A round of official talks was held at the Doha Palace today between our country and the State of Qatar. The talks were cochaired by Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. The sides discussed bilateral relations, joint cooperation, and means of promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. The two sides also exchanged views on several issues and regional and Arab developments, particularly the two countries' efforts to reinforce joint Arab action with the objective of restoring Arab solidarity which bolsters the nation's ability to confront challenges.

During the round of talks, the president reiterated congratulations to Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on his assumption of power in Qatar, wishing him further success in the interest of the fraternal Qatari people. He also praised Qatar's principled support for our people and their unity, stressing our country's desire to promote its relations and joint cooperation between the two countries to fulfill the aspirations of the two fraternal countries and to bolster the march of stability and prosperity in the region.

Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani welcomed the brother president and the delegation accompanying him. He thanked the president on his congratulations, and lauded the Yemeni-Qatari relations. He said that they are special fraternal relations. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani then held a closed session of talks, during which they discussed issues related to bilateral relations and issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Exhibit of Iranian Products Opens

95LH0178A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 28 May 95 p 13

[Article by Ala' Abd-al-Hadi: "Al-Dirham: Iranian Products Have Become Strong Competitors in Qatari Market; Shafe'i: We Have Passed First Test of Devel-

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opment Program Successfully; Domestic Product Has Leaped by 7.4 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening, His Excellency Abd-al-Rahman Sa'd al-Dirham, the labor, social affairs, and housing minister, accompanied by His Excellency Engineer Gholam Reza Shafe'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran minister of cooperatives, inaugurated the Iranian products fair, held at the grounds of the Qatari International Fairs Center from 27 May to 2 June. The opening ceremony was attended by their excellencies the undersecretaries and the heads of diplomatic missions to the country, high-ranking officials, and businessmen. After inauguration, the two ministers, accompanied by high-ranking officials, toured the fair and listened to full explanations from the officers in charge of the various wings.

His Excellency Abd-al-Rahman Bin Sa'd al-Dirham said, "What we have seen at the fair makes words needless. It reflects the aspects of industrial progress in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moreover, the staging of the fair is a good indication of the firm relations that bind Qatar to Iran."

Al-Dirham added, "We aspire for greater cooperation between the two countries by organizing more such fairs that are beneficial to both countries." He noted that Iranian products are finding their way to the markets and that they have the capability to compete, adding, "We wish the Iranian people further progress and prosperity."

On his part, Engineer Gholam Reza Shafe'i, the Islamic Republic of Iran minister of cooperatives, said that Qatari-Iranian relations are improving and developing constantly and that they are a model to be emulated in relations between countries. Shafe'i also noted that Iran has sought to organize this fair in order to broaden relations between the two countries. More than 80 Iranian companies have participated in the fair, organized by Qatar Expo Company in cooperation with Islam International Company.

Shaykh Jabr Bin Yusuf Al Thani, the Qatar Expo Board of Directors chairman, stressed that the holding of this fair comes within the framework of the company policy to organize varied fairs that serve the Qatari businessmen's sector. He said that this fair is a golden opportunity for businessmen to acquire representation for numerous Iranian companies that wish to establish a foothold in the Qatari market.

His Excellency Engineer Gholam Reza Shafe'i, Iranian minister of cooperatives, added, "On the basis of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the economic system relies on three sectors: governmental, cooperative, and private. The economy also relies on soundly organized planning and programs. The cooperative sector includes cooperative and production companies and corporations and distribution companies formed in cities and villages in accordance with Islamic controls. The Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on its material and moral resources, has now been able to complete the first economic, social, and cultural development program with great success. The republic carries on with its economic development program with a clear vision and under the umbrella of the second five-year plan. During the first plan, the gross domestic product increased by 7.4 percent, and it is expected that it will grow by 5.1 percent in the second five-year plan, measured by the 1982 prices."

The minister also said, "Since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, the cooperative sector has achieved considerable growth and has kept up pace with the objectives of the Islamic Republic's system. This sector has been able to occupy a special place in the country's economy, considering that more than 27,971 cooperative companies were founded by the start of 1995. These companies include 8,458,236 members (as families and economic and production units) and they engage in their activities in the fields of agriculture, industry, minerals, trade, services, transport and communications, culture and education, health and health care, construction and housing, sports and recreation, handmade rugs, manual crafts, and fishing. Accordingly, the cooperative sector's share of transportation between cities has amounted to 67 percent. Its share in the field of mining has amounted to 13 percent and in the field of handmade rugs to 18.3 percent. Nearly 67 percent of the urban population and 100 percent of the rural population enjoy services provided by cooperative and consumer companies. According to the second five-year plan, there will be 47,815 production and distribution cooperative companies by 1999, with an annual growth rate of 7.3 percent. Annual employment [growth] rate in the cooperative sector will amount to 16.7 percent, and this sector's share of the country's non-oil exports will amount to 15 percent. The cooperative sector of the Islamic Republic of Iran's economy enjoys great capacity and capability in the area of farm crop exports and exports of industrial and mineral products, as well as export of services to other countries of the world. It is especially capable of providing needs of the Islamic countries, led by the region's countries. This sector can, moreover, provide goods needed by the region's countries and by African countries, including construction materials and building requirements; medical materials and foodstuffs; handmade rugs; manual craft products; clothing and textiles; wood products; furniture; metal, plastic and fiberglass products; home appliances; industrial machines and equipment; pottery and china; melamine and acetyl;

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fish products; fruits and preserves; and ornamental and construction stone. You can see samples of these products at the fair."

Shafe'i noted that the purpose behind staging this special fair of the cooperative sector of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the State of Qatar is the following:

- Expand the spheres of economic cooperation between the cooperative sectors of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Qatar.
- Joint investment in the areas of production and commerce and mutual utilization of the two countries' services and economic capabilities.
- Help create a common Islamic and regional market on the basis of Islamic cooperation.
- Market and expand the circulation of products of Iranian cooperative companies in the region's Arab countries and in African countries.

He added that this fair has been staged on an area of 5,000 square meters through firm cooperation between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Cooperatives and that a "number of our country's major cooperative companies and unions are participating in the fair. Each of these unions represents hundreds of cooperative production companies and thousands of production and economic units. Honorable visitors and merchants are shown a part of the various Iranian cooperative companies in more than 200 wings."

Sayyid Baqir Sakha'i, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said, "Organizing fairs is one of the most important means for familiarization with the products of other countries. These fairs lead to the development and prosperity of economic relations between countries. Because the Islamic Republic of Iran is the biggest neighbor of the sisterly State of Qatar; because it has high production capacity in all agricultural, industrial, food, and clothing areas, and especially in the area of manual crafts; and because it views its presence in Qatar's markets as very necessary, it has staged this fair, which is of special importance. All cooperative unions of the Islamic Republic of Iran have taken part in this fair because they turn out products in accordance with well-known international criteria and standards and because this is the first fair of its kind to be organized in the region."

Sakha'i added, "The name of the cooperative unions may not be known to many in this region. This is why the participation of these 80 cooperative unions through nearly 200 production companies and units provides an appropriate chance for the region's peoples, and especially for Qatari merchants and businessmen, to familiarize themselves closely with the main sources of production in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The ambassador expressed the hope that this fair—which is the result of efforts and endeavors by the Islamic Republic of Iran Ministry of Cooperatives, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the labor attach's office in the State of Qatar, in cooperation with Islam International Company—will play an influential role to develop and expand trade relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

Officials, Oman Sign International Border Maps

LD1007151095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] International border maps between the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] and the brotherly Sultanate of Oman were signed at a ceremony in Riyadh today. [passage omitted]

Qatari Amir Praises Accord

LD1107211095 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, July 11, SPA — Qatari Emir Shaykh Hamad Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has highlighted the agreement of the international border demarcation, signed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman, and described it as a great achievement which will have a positive impact not only on Saudi-Omani bilateral relations, but also on the entire countries of the Gulf region.

The agreement will further enhance the pillars of security and stability in the Gulf region, said Al Thani in his cable of congratulation to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

We wish further progress and prosperity for the fraternal Saudi nation under your wise leadership, added Al Thani.

In his cable of reply the Saudi monarch expressed appreciation for the heartfelt feelings spelt out by the Qatari emir.

We pray to the almighty Allah to enable us all for the service of our nation and realize its ambitions, said King Fahd.

We pray to the almighty Allah to bestow us with his bounties and enable us to follow the teachings of our religion and adhere to our noble values, he added.

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King Fahd Presides at Council of Ministers

LD1007194595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1750 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 10 Jul (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers which was held this afternoon at the al-Salam palace in Jeddah.

His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, told the Saudi news agency, SPA, after the meeting:

At the beginning of the session King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, made a comprehensive statement in which he reviewed all the current conditions at Islamic and Arab levels, pointing out the constant challenges that confront the Islamic nation and particularly the attacks, injustice, and persecution done to Islamic peoples despite all the efforts to'halt the acts of violence and calls to spare the blood of Muslims. [passage omitted]

In his speech the exalted king said :"We are not pleased when our relations with any fraternal or friendly state are strained. We always ensure to strengthen and entrench our ties with our brothers everywhere. The kingdom, as it is well known, has not abused anyone, and would not do so. Also, it does not approve of interference in the domestic affairs of any state; consequently it would not allow anyone to interfere in its domestic affairs. We always hasten to lend our support to the brothers and ensure that we are a source of good and assistance to them without soliciting return of the favor. Therefore, it is our duty to do so and this is dictated by ties of kinship, religion, language, and blood." [passage omitted]

His Excellency al-Sha'ir went on to say :

The exalted king urged their royal highnesses and excellencies to redouble efforts and continue to contribute within the limits of the financial laws, while rationalizing expenditure and confining it to important and essential things. They should also urge the citizens to cooperate with the state in this connection. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Head of Ra's al-Khaymah on Iran, Regional Issues

95AE0028 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
15 Apr 95 pp 29-31

[Interview with Sheikh Sakr Ben Mohamed al-Qassimi by Abdel Aziz al-Sadiqi and Taj el-Din Abdel Haq in Abu Dhabi; date not given: "Sheikh al-Qassimi: We Will Discuss Iran's Interests in the Islands if It Recognizes Our Sovereignty There"—first paragraph is AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sheikh Sakr Ben Mohamed al-Qassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the federated state of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Ra's al-Khaima, is considered to be one of the Gulf region's historical symbols. He has ruled over Ra's al-Khaima for approximately half a century, more precisely since 1948. Despite this length of time, Sheikh Sakr continues to perform the duties of government on a daily basis and follows up on government projects and affairs actively. AL-MAJALLAH interviewed him at his court in Ra's al-Khaima. At first, Sheikh Sakr discussed the conditions of life in the past and the gradual transformation of the area from a society ruled by traditional norms to one of institutions, regimes, and legislation. He pointed out that it was necessary to make this transformation gradual because "we cannot impose laws and regimes that exceed people's capacity to understand their implications, or that exceed their daily needs. However, in education—which is the basis for any progress—we were able to provide administrative and technical cadres that carry the responsibilities and undertake the activities that serve society."

[AL-MAJALLAH] But, it is said that you supervise these affairs directly and in detail despite the availability of knowledgeable and educated cadres in the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaima. Is this not at times a burden on you and on the public good?

[Al-Qassimi] Our role is to supervise things. But the daily work is the responsibility of the youths to whom we give all our confidence and support.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some say that many detailed matters need your personal approval.

[Al-Qassimi] This is not accurate. However there are matters that we cannot overlook, for we are responsible for the lives and the welfare of people. We, therefore, follow these matters closely.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Settling the tribes in the mountainous areas of Ra's al-Khaima passed through difficult phases and conditions. How were you able to sedenterize [subdue?] these tribes and to entice them to settle and participate in the development process?

[Al-Qassimi] There were two matters that we were careful about. The first was to provide our support and assistance to the tribes in a way that maintains them in their villages and on their farms. The second was to increase the number of educated youths. We consider education as the basis to any development process. And, thank God, we succeeded to a large extent. The number of both the educated increased. So did the number of

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those that entered government service, the army, the police, and the coast guard.

[AL-MAJALLAH] However there are those who say that the living conditions in the mountainous regions are difficult.

[Al-Qassimi] This is not true because the majority of those who live in those areas migrated from the mountains, especially after the youths were educated and worked in the government apparatus.

[AL-MAJALLAH] No one remains in the mountains?

[Al-Qassimi] This is part of the customs of the area. They live in one place during the summer, in another during the winter, and in a third place during the spring. These habits come from old inherited customs.

[AL-MAJALLAH] This movement surely creates border problems with neighboring states.

[Al-Qassimi] No. Border problems do not concern inhabitants as the government takes care of these matters. There is no relationship with the movement of people.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the borders with the Sultanate of Oman?

[Al-Qassimi] Our relations with Oman are excellent. Discussions with Oman about border issues are at the federal level.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What role did the educational delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia play in the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaima?

[Al-Qassimi] The kingdom had a very important role in the emirate's education. It sent a delegation of the best teachers to Ra's al-Khaima specifically. These were also distinguished by their attention to their work and their devotion to their message. Saudi officials continuously supervised these delegations so that the schools always kept to their schedules. The kingdom, which in the past created the federation, crowned its role by establishing the religious institute at Ra's al-Khaima. I personally asked King Feisal Bin Abdel Aziz, may he rest in peace, to create this institute. He accepted immediately and without hesitation. The institute has become an important landmark in Ra's al-Khaima, graduating tens of students each year. These graduates do not work only as teachers but also work in the fields of Justice and in government.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Was the institute limited to Ra's al-Khaima alone?

[Al-Qassimi] No it served all the Emirates, the neighboring countries, and many in the Islamic community.

The Occupied Islands

[AL-MAJALLAH] We now come to the subject of the Emirates' islands which Iran occupied in 1971. How do you perceive this problem and to where is it going?

[Al-Qassimi] We do not wish to be the enemies of Iran at any time. We consider Iran a muslim neighbor with which we want to have cooperation and good neighborly relations. But, at the same time, we will not give up our rights over these islands. These were handed to the Iranians during British rule. We consider the English to be responsible for this problem because Iran occupied these islands during their presence.

[AL-MAJALLAH] So you consider Britain to be responsible for the problem?

[Al-Qassimi] Yes, they are responsible because, when they decided to leave the area, they did not hand the islands over to us. Instead, they relinquished them to the Iranians.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It has been said that Iran attempted to buy or to lease these islands?

[Al-Qassimi] There were ambassadors of Iran that from time to time offered to solve the problem by purchasing or leasing the islands. However, we replied that we cannot consider these proposals unless our sovereignty over the islands were recognized. Only then would we consider any idea that is linked to the interests of Iran.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that leasing would be possible if sovereignty over the islands were recognized?

[Al-Qassimi] What is important is that the sovereignty of the Emirates over the islands be recognized and good neighborliness respected. Only then will we consider other matters.

[AL-MAJALLAH] However, it is said that Iran paid Ra's al-Khaima in exchange for the islands. How true is this?

[Al-Qassimi] This was attempted during British rule by the British Governor Loss who advised us to reach an agreement with Iran. He told me: "If you do not reach an understanding with Iran, you will lose". So I told him "the loss of treasure is not a loss, the real loss occurs when a person loses his self-respect". I told him that there we do not bargain over our land and that we do not accept negotiations on this basis. He and I disagreed. The problem started since then.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you see a solution to this problem?

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[Al-Qassimi] The first step, which is the recognition of our sovereignty over the islands, must come from the Iranians. Only then can we reach an understanding over other matters.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What is your assessment over the role of federal government in trying to solve this problem?

[Al-Qassimi] As an emirate, our position and that of the federal government are one. There is no disagreement between us over this, as we both propose the same solution.

Personal Sides

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some envy you for the energy you display in spite of the responsibilities of governing and your daily work during this long period of time. How do you spend your free time, and where do sports fit in your daily life?

[Al-Qassimi] Thank God for everything. I do not practice sports in a disciplined manner, but I do walk daily. In the past, I would walk 6 kilometers a day. I now walk around 2 kilometers a day after the dawn prayers.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It is said that you drink camel milk?

[Al-Qassimi] It is not only me. This is a habit of the people of the Najd of which this region is a part. In Ryadh, there is a plant for camel milk, which I visited.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are you interested in camel and horse races as are many in the area?

[Al-Qassimi] To a certain extent. There are those in the Emirate that are interested in these matters, but less than in other areas.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How much do you enjoy traveling, and which places do you prefer?

[Al-Qassimi] I am not very fond of traveling. Traveling for certain matters is sufficient for me, but I prefer the place that I like visiting and returning to—Holy Mecca.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What are the things that you would like to ingrain in your sons?

[Al-Qassimi] The most important thing I tried to ingrain in them is that there is a religion, and that there are habits and traditions that the person cannot abandon. Otherwise, I tried to provide them with the opportunity for education. All my children, whether boys or girls, graduated and obtained university degrees.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about poetry. Do you recite poetry, and do you like it?

[Al-Qassimi] Unfortunately, I like poetry, but I do not recite it.

Yemen

'Abd-al-Ghani Receives Indian Official

JN1107184895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani today received (Rafonat), Indian Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the Indian side at the Yemeni-Indian Joint Technical Committee for Economic Cooperation, who is currently on a visit to our country.

The Indian official conveyed a message to the prime minister from Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, dealing with bilateral cooperation and means of promoting it. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN1107190795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A cooperation agreement and minutes of the meetings of the Yemeni-Indian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation were signed at the Planning and Development Ministry. The cooperation agreement includes economic, trade, scientific, and cultural fields. The agreement stipulates that the two countries encourage and promote cooperation in the aforementioned fields. [passage omitted]

The Indian delegation, led by the Indian Foreign Ministry undersecretary left Sanaa today after participating in the Yemeni-Indian Joint Committee meetings which were concluded in Sanaa today.

Iraqi Minister of Labor, Social Affairs Departs

JN1007121495 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, July 10, INA — President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Latif Nusayyif Jasim left Sanaa on Monday winding up a two days visit to the Yemen.

The Iraqi envoy conveyed, during the visit, a verbal message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from President Husayn dealing with Iraq-U.N. relations and the Security Council responsibility for satisfying its reciprocal obligations vis-a-vis Iraq.

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Reactions to UN Sanctions Review

Legislator Expects Continuation

NC1007171495 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 10 (AFP) — Iraqis said Monday [10 July] they had no illusions about an immediate end to five years of international economic sanctions on the eve of a UN Security Council review.

"There will be no change in the UN attitude as long as the United States maintains its hostile position toward the Iraqi people," Raja' al-Shawi, a member of parliament, told AFP.

The UN Security Council is expected to maintain the oil embargo at a regular review on Tuesday, but France, Russia and China said they are ready to help Baghdad once it has met disarmament requirements, diplomats in New York said.

"Washington wants to subjugate the Iraqis, even if Baghdad fulfills all its international obligations," al-Shawi said. "The Iraqi people refuse to be forced to their knees and will reject any American pressure."

The U.S. attitude toward Iraq "is not based on any legal foundation, but on political calculations," according to Hammam al- Shamma', an economics professor at Baghdad University.

But he said he was happy Iraq had "succeeded diplomatically in turning the Security Council into a battle between supporters and opponents of ending the embargo."

In his latest report to the Security Council, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, said Iraq had promised to provide a full account of its germ warfare program by the end of the month.

He wants Iraq to explain what it did with 17 tonnes of growth media with biological weapons potential — the sole remaining obstacle to lifting the oil embargo imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Salah al-Mukhtar, chairman of the Iraqi association for "peace and solidarity," said Washington has "its own interpretation of Resolution 687, which is isolating it further in the Security Council."

The resolution's paragraph 22 calls for lifting the oil embargo once Iraq has satisfied demands that it eliminate its programs for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as long-range missiles.

It must also comply with long-term monitoring of those programs.

"They are killing us in the name of international law," said Saduq Hashim, a retired government employee and father of four children.

Washington and London oppose a lifting of the embargo until Iraq complies with all UN Security Resolutions, such as the return of Kuwaiti prisoners, and not just those calling for its disarmament.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said Thursday he hoped Ekeus would conclude as quickly as possible that Iraq no longer possessed weapons banned by the United Nations.

He said Iraq was "determined" to comply with 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolutions to end the isolation of his country and suffering of his people.

No 'Positive Change' Expected

JN1107133895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Nawal Muhsin in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqis agree that the Iraq sanctions that have been in place for the past five years have turned into a political issue. Hence, they do not expect any positive change at the UN Security Council's review of the sanctions today. Raja' al- Shawi, member of the Iraqi National Assembly, has said that she does not expect any change as long as the United States maintains its hostility toward the Iraqi people.

As for Salah al-Mukhtar, chairman of the Iraqi [Friendship], Peace, and Solidarity Organization, he believes that the circle of pro-Iraq stands is expanding day in and day out despite Washington's hostile endeavors, which are opposed to any softening of the sanctions.

Baghdad has said that the UN Security Council [UNSC] is currently facing a clearly new phase in dealing with Iraq by several states, particularly since it has fulfilled all its commitments. It added that the moment of truth has come for the countries that have asked Iraq to meet the requirements of Section C of Resolution 687; namely, Russia, France, and the PRC. These countries are required to force what needs to be taken to honor their promises. They are also required to be firm in this regard, particularly since the United States is making enormous efforts to prevent these countries from taking a major step over the sanctions.

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Kuwaiti, Iraqi Envoys on Decision

NC1107190795 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by correspondent Rula Amin in New York—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Security Council today decided to continue the sanctions on Iraq without any amendments or changes. But if things go according to Iraq's wishes, then this could be the last review without changes. What makes this hope a realistic one for the Iraqis is Iraq's recent cooperation with the UN committee charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's announcement of its intention to hand over in mid-July all the information required on its bacteriological program. Iraq hopes that this file will be closed before August and thus to have all the files on nuclear, chemical, and germ warfare closed. This is a basic requirement before the oil sanctions are lifted. But things might not work out this way. The Kuwaiti UN envoy stressed that there are other demands. He said:

[Begin recording] [Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad Abu-al-Hassan] The bacteriological file is one of the commitments, not all of them. The Security Council believes that its resolutions are one single and integral legal unit. No parts of can be singled out to reduce the sanctions. For example, Iraq's peaceful intentions are the criteria for the sincerity of Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions. It has not released the prisoners to this date. Does the failure to release the prisoners show Iraq's peaceful intentions? Never.

[Amin] [passage omitted] For its part, Iraq stresses that the UN actions and the special commission's positive attitudes show the extent of Iraq's cooperation. Here is Iraq's UN envoy:

[Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdun] We were always ready. But as I said in the past, all the files have been kept open. Every time we give the required answers and information we are asked for more, which we were not previously told about. Thus, we have given information that we did not know was required in the first place. But the latest report encourages us to increase this cooperation more quickly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Baghdad TV on UNSC Session

JN1107195695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Baghdad time, the UN Security Council [UNSC] held a periodic review of the Iraq sanctions. The UNSC began its consultations by debating a letter submitted by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus on the information Iraq has offered on biological research. The UNSC listened to replies by the deputy chairman of the UN Special Commission.

Prior to the start of the consultations, French Ambassador Jean- Merime said: We are still awaiting a report from Ambassador Ekeus on the biological issues, which have definitely seen some developments. When Ekeus finalizes his report after examining this information, we within the UNSC will be in a position to take specific moves to lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq by implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The French delegate added: If everything goes as planned, there will be a chance to obtain a full and final declaration on the biological file by the end of July. The UN Special Commission will scrutinize this file in August. So, the UNSC could begin serious efforts to debate a lifting of the oil embargo in September.

British Ambassador David Hannay said that the deliberations were very good. The answers provided by the deputy chairman of the UN Special Commission were very useful, he noted. He added that he believed that a step forward has been taken.

As for U.S. Ambassador Albright, she, as usual, assailed Iraq and accused it of failing to cooperate with the UN Special Commission, as she put it.

At the end of the consultations, the president of the UNSC for this month, who is the ambassador of Honduras, issued a statement, saying that the UNSC has completed its review of the Iraq sanctions per Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687. He did not elaborate any further.

In Vienna, the capital of Austria, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] issued a statement today, saying that it found baseless the reports that Iraq is clandestinely working on a technology to build a nuclear bomb. British and U.S. intelligence services have claimed that they uncovered an Iraqi plan to build a computerized prototype for a nuclear weapon in order to delay a revocation of the Iraq sanctions by the UNSC.

A spokesman for the IAEA said that IAEA experts examined the reports of the British and U.S. intelligence services and found them incorrect.

Ba'th Party Command Member on U.S. Resolution 986

95AE0035A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 26 Apr 95 pp 10-11

[Report on interview by Salah al-'Amiri with 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraqi regional

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command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Resolution 986 was stillborn for many reasons, the most important of which was the Iraqi people's rejection of this disgraceful resolution.

With these expressive words, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraqi regional command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, began his interview with ALIF BA'. He explained from a political viewpoint the aims of this U.S. resolution and how it is directed against the existence, dignity, and sovereignty of the Iraqis and their country.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghafur chose to begin his remarks with why Iraq is being targeted. He said:

U.S. imperialism targeted Iraq because of the progress and development this country has achieved following the glorious 17-30 July 1968 revolution. Ba'thist strugglers changed slogans into reality by virtue of the Ba'thist work theory, whose principles were established by President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. The imperialist and al-shu'ubiyah forces felt that their interests were being jeopardized. For example, the slogan of "the Arab nation's wealth is for its people" began to be implemented when Iraqi oil was nationalized on 1 June 1972. Some of the main indicators of the danger that was threatening the interests of the Arab nation's enemies were the nationalization of oil, the emergence of the historic leader and struggler Saddam Husayn, and changing the party's slogans into reality. This was becoming evident day after day. Therefore, Iraq's enemies began making plans to undermine the revolution from within through successive plots. The unity of the people and their valiant armed forces and their revolutionary interaction with the leader and symbol Saddam Husayn foiled all these attempts. Iraq's enemies then turned to regional plots that culminated in the direct Iranian aggression on 4 September 1980, which continued until 8 August 1988. This aggression, which expressed the rancor of al-shu'ubiyah against Iraq, Arabism, and Islam, was defeated. U.S. imperialism and its allies then turned to direct imperialist aggression that culminated in the treacherous 30-nation aggression. This aggression was foiled, thanks to the wisdom of the historic leader and the heroic Iraqi people's cohesion. The U.S. enemy and his allies were left with no option but to use their hegemony over the UN Security Council to issue unjust resolutions against Iraq. They imposed a blockade and attempted to harm the Iraqi people. The resolutions continued in alarming succession, but the wisdom and ability of the leader and symbol, Saddam Husayn, were instrumental in defeating all the enemies' attempts and plans. The enemies lived in a real vacuum because their malicious pocket was emptied of every legal or moral excuse, however marginal or limited it was. This led them to embark on a new conspiracy through the malicious Resolution 986. This resolution was designed to hinder the international community's attempt to implement the Security Council's commitment under paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, after Iraq has implemented all its provisions, despite their extreme unfairness to it and to the Arab nation. Although U.S. Resolution 986 was extremely malicious and evil and couched with humanitarian intentions, our Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and our friends in the world fully exposed it.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghafur continues his remarks about another aspect of the U.S. imperialist conspiracy contained in malicious Resolution 986, saying:

The paragraph designating sums of money to U.S. agents in northern Iraq clearly exposed the imperialist nature of Resolution 986. Our patient people clearly remember that the agents, throughout the period of their rebellion and separatist attempts, have demanded a share of the oil revenues to achieve their separatist aim. The imperialist and Zionist forces have regularly promoted this demand, which members of our Kurdish people and all our Iraqi people resisted. Resolution 986 is trying to implement this false dream of the agents and their U.S. masters. Our valiant people know the agents. They fully exposed their shameless faces. The malicious U.S. resolution has further exposed the agents and the U.S. when they tried to carry out the despicable separatist plot. Although we affirm that the allocated amount is not significant, anyone examining Iraq's budgets in the past years would clearly notice the large amount we allocated for this dear part of the homeland and the direct personal attention given to it by the president leader. We are fully confident that our Kurdish people in the dear northern homeland will frustrate the dreams of the agents and their masters. They will continue to rally around leader Saddam Husayn to end this transient extraordinary situation and return to the fold. Iraq has a 6000-year civilization, and it will remain a living and undivided entity.

In a firm, principled, and unshaken faith, Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghafur emphasizes the depth of the Iraqi people's awareness, patience, creativity, superb tested struggle, and support for the leader of the jihad and construction, Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. He added:

The Iraqi people's response to the malicious U.S. Resolution 986 was manifested directly in mass spontaneous demonstrations when the resolution was announced. This was expected after the building of the new per-

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son in Iraq has reached an advanced stage, ripened by the difficult circumstances of the revolutionary struggle against imperialism and its evil attempts. Iraq's firm rejection gained additional support through the solidarity expressed by the Arab brothers and their angry reactions against the malicious U.S. resolution. The scope of sympathy by our friends in the world has also increased. They are continuing to denounce the maliciousness of U.S. imperialism and express solidarity and support for Iraq's legitimate right to lift the blockade and remove the harm to its people, who do not deserve all the damage inflicted on them. On the other hand, a review of the nature of the UN Security Council's work and the positions of the states on the blockade on Iraq shows that France, China, and Russia and other council members are demanding the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. These states will maintain their position during the periodic reviews. I think that Resolution 986 will not have much impact. These states will continue to maintain their position because it is based on their interests. It is also based on their conviction that Iraq has implemented all what was demanded of it under Resolution 687 and that the Security Council, according to law and ethics, must quickly implement its commitment under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and lift the ban on Iraq's exports and frozen assets. The year 1995 will be the year of definite crossing for all our Iraqi people, with God's help, the wisdom of the leader, and the people's patience, steadfastness, creativity, and boundless sacrifice.

INA Reports Jordanian MP's Criticism of Albright

JN0807095795 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 8, INA — A Jordanian MP has slammed the U.S. aggressive attitudes towards Iraq designed to starve its people by keeping the embargo in place for as long as possible.

MP Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant criticised in a statement to INA correspondent the lies and false claims unleashed by America and its ambassador to the U.N. Albright against Iraq with the aim of distorting the facts and blocking the work of the Security Council.

He called upon the Security Council to adopt objective attitudes based on the international legitimacy by putting Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 into action and giving up the U.S. policies aimed at striking at and starving the peoples.

Shaykh Abu-Zant said that America had turned the Security Council into a subservient instrument to achieve its purposes and aggressive policies under cover of international legitimacy.

He also called upon the Arab governments to adopt serious steps towards Iraq in accordance with the common interests and brush aside the invalid allegations being released by the U.S. Administration and its allies.

The Jordanian MP urged the Arab people to build pressure on their governments so as to defreeze the Iraqi assets abroad.

Official: Baghdad Wants Improved Egypt, Iran Ties

MM1207144995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — [passage omitted] In Cairo, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab Relations Committee in the [Iraqi] Ba'th Party Command, has stressed his country's eagerness to improve its relations with Egypt and Iran. In a seminar organized by the newspaper SAWT AL-'ARAB he said: "We are seeking to restore relations with Egypt. And there is no justification at all to continue the estrangement between our two countries. We attach no conditions to the restoration of these relations. Our position is summed up as follows: What happened happened, and we must look to the future."

Envoy to UN Protests Iran Cease-Fire Violations

JN0807100895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 8 Jul (INA) — Iraq has protested to the United Nations Iran's violation of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement on the buffer zone between the two countries.

A letter by Iraq's permanent UN representative to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that between 30 May-24 June, the Iranian side attacked a number of Iraqi fishermen and seized their boats.

The letter added that the Iranian side has also started work again at several border police stations in the safe haven between the two countries.

The letter said a number of Iranian helicopters also violated Iraqi airspace during the same period.

Iraq's permanent UN representative asked that the letter and its attachments be circulated as a Security Council document.

'Aziz Delivers Saddam Message for Yeltsin

JN1107085395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0836 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received

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Nikolay Kartuzov, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Baghdad.

During the meeting, the ambassador was given a message from President Saddam Husayn in reply to a message Russian President Boris Yeltsin had earlier sent to his excellency.

'Aziz Urges Turkey To Reassess Policy on Iraq

JN1207113495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1035 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—In a statement to INA in reaction to the recent Turkish invasion in the northern part of Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: There is a bizarre paradox in the Turkish position. When the Turkish Government calls for renewing the presence of the so-called Hammer Force, it uses the excuse that it fears that Iraq may carry out an alleged military action in the region that would cause an exodus of Iraqi Kurds to Turkey.

The deputy prime minister added: At the same time, Turkey bombards the villages in northern Iraq and threatens the lives of civilians and destroys their property, thus causing the Iraqi Kurds to flee their villages to other areas and creating a difficult human condition, which has made the United Nations intervene to provide relief.

Tariq 'Aziz added: It is now time to expose this bizarre paradox in the Turkish position. Turkey must reassess its position on this issue and deal with it in a normal and correct way. This can be done by ending the presence of the so-called Hammer Force. This will in turn return conditions in northern Iraq to normal, and then there will be no threats to Turkish security from the Iraqi side of the borders, whether this threat was real or imaginary.

Tariq 'Aziz reiterated the Council of Minister' statement in January that called on the Iraqi Kurdish groups, which resumed fighting against each other, to start a dialogue with the competent Iraqi authorities and also among themselves to return conditions in the region to normal and to strengthen the country's national unity.

The deputy prime minister stressed that ending the presence of the Hammer Force and dialogue are the only means to remedy the abnormal conditions in northern Iraq. These — and not the Turkish Government's action that allows the U.S. troops to intervene in the affairs of Turkey and Iraq and stage reprehensible military operations — will provide a positive element to ensure Turkey's security on the Iraqi-Turkish borders. He added that it is futile to keep things as they are now.

In a news conference in Athens on Monday, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said the United Nations is ready to provide humanitarian aid, which he said is needed in the areas in which the Turkish troops are carrying out operations in the northern part of Iraq.

Ciller's 'Irresponsible' Comments Criticized

JN1207075395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0640 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has strongly criticized Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's recent irresponsible statements in which she threatened that her government plans to continue its military intervention in Iraqi territory under the pretext of establishing tranquility in the region.

In an analysis today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Ciller's statement jumps over a fact which was underlined by the last quarter of a century of Turkish-Iraqi relations; that Ankara's commitment to the ties of good neighborliness, the UN Charter, and the borders treaty signed by the two countries in 1920, as well as the Iraqi central government's control over every inch of Iraqi territory, especially in the northern part, is the only means to establish tranquility in northern Iraq and southern Turkey.

The paper notes that Ciller government is twisting the Turkish people's will to renew the presence of foreign troops on Turkish territory, and that this will only keep the situation in northern Iraq and southern Turkey tense.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the real aim of the foreign troops' presence in Turkey is to conspire against Iraq and keep the situation in northern Iraq and the entire region unstable, because a stable situation will annul the excuses to keep the U.S. troops at a close distance from Russia and southern Europe.

The paper says Ciller's statements in Tashkent provide a bad example for the future of ties between Turkey and the newly- independent Muslim states and on the extent of Ankara's commitment to the treaties which it may sign with them.

The paper says the friendly Turkish people did not waste an opportunity to express their rejection of the U.S. and foreign troops presence on their territory. They, at the same time, expressed their keenness to strengthen the ties of friendship and good neighborliness with the regional states, particularly Iraq.

The paper concludes its analysis by saying: We in Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations look forward to a national Islamic Turkish role, which is in harmony with the aspirations of the Turkish Muslim people.

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KDP Spokesman Condemns Turkish 'Invasion'

JN0907082395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghad, 8 Jul (INA) — The [pro-government] Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has condemned the latest Turkish invasion of the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq.

In a statement to INA today, an official spokesman for the KDP said the Turkish invasion of the Iraqi territories reaffirms Turkey's violation of international norms and charters, as well as the principle of good neighborliness. [passage omitted]

He said the new Turkish action against our proud and steadfast people is another Turkish folly orchestrated by the United States and its allies, and carried out under flimsy pretexts.

The KDP spokesman called on the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading troops immediately from our land and to abandon its aggressive and criminal acts against our faithful, steadfast people in Iraqi Kurdistan. The spokesman held the Turkish Government and the United Nations responsible for the destruction, devastation, robbery, and killing taking place in the region.

He called on our good Kurdish people to stand up to all threats posed by the abnormal situation in Kurdistan and to resist the invaders and their agents in the region in order to maintain security and stability, safeguard the interests of the people—both Arabs and Kurds—and ensure the return of the central authority to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Ba'th Official Reportedly Escapes Assassination

NC0607150195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports received in Mosul from Makhmur district state that Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the so-called Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the official in charge of the party's Ninaw organizations, miraculously escaped an assassination attempt in Makhmur on 30 June. The reports say Hadi's motorcade came under extensive fire while he and Agriculture Minister Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid were on a visit to Makhmur. It was also noted that four guards were wounded and the windshield of the car in which Hadi and the agriculture minister were travelling was smashed.

Also according to information received in Mosul, the guards' car leading the two officials' car was completely destroyed. It was towed early on 1 July to the local administration's garage in Mosul to keep it out of sight.

Authorities Reportedly Arrest Senior Army Officers

NC1107144995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling authorities in Iraq are continuing the campaign of arrests and transfers among the armed forces personnel in an attempt to remove those whose loyalty is suspected by the regime. The move comes as rejection of Saddam and his regime is growing among the people and army.

Arrivals from northern Iraq last week said the regime's security organs recently arrested a number of senior officers on charges of contacting the military personnel who implemented the operation to seize radio transmitters in Abu Gharib on 14 June.

The arrivals said officers from the military industries agency were among the arrested personnel.

Editorial on Recent Uprising, Regime Prospects

95LH0202A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 95 p 17

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrkhan: "Saddam's Victory!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many in the Arab world doubtlessly were hoping to hear the following news from Iraq: "Coup topples Saddam Husayn's regime." The details, however, disappointed their hopes. As of yesterday, the day following the spread of the report of the insurrection, Iraqi sources were still refusing even to acknowledge that anything had happened.

This is natural. The death of several hundred men is not an event that makes eyes blink in the regime's corridors of power. It was: "The situation is quiet," and "Radio and television are operating normally," and "No shooting has been heard." Amazing the difference between what comes out of the news agencies from Baghdad and what comes out of them from outside Iraq!

An insurrection certainly occurred, but it was not a programmed coup attempt. Rather, it was the result of the confrontations that al-Anbar governorate witnessed about two weeks ago. It is clear that the commander of the 14th-of-July Battalion acted from tribal feeling, rather than from definite political motivation. No longer is the regime satisfied with punishing the military men whose heads become visible, even if they are from the central region and from the tribal body that forms its hard core. Rather, the regime goes ahead in its usual fashion, quelling the families of these military men and murdering their sons, even if it showed a certain "mercy" in proceeding to arrest several hundred and

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throw them into Abu Gharib prison, one of the black symbols of this regime.

Thus, the tribes close to the regime no longer enjoy any inviolability or privilege. It may be the first time that the regime is facing danger from inside a circle that was assumed to protect the regime and form a defense line for its Takriti hard core. What happened in al-Anbar and then in Abu Gharib is an outward sign of the regime's corrosion and rottenness. Although these signs were slow to announce themselves, they were latent, waiting for the first spark. Anyone who knows the nature of this regime can imagine what is happening and what will happen in the wake of the insurrection. The announcement by "trustworthy sources" in Baghdad that the insurrection has been crushed is nothing but a beginning. The al-Dulaymi tribe's difficult days are not over; they are still to come. While the regime is in this critical phase, it will inevitably make the crushing of the insurrection a cruel and bloody lesson for the other tribes—all under the slogan of eliminating plots against the regime.

This is a type of civil war that one can say has taken place and still is taking place in Iraq. Indeed, it is likely to escalate regardless of whether the regime is able to endure or change overtakes it from within. Amazing how much this land thirsts for blood! Amazing the extent to which scenarios for the future are based on nothing but more massacres! Amazing how this regime can discover no means to deal peacefully with the people, even while it stands in the greatest need of guided change to provide itself with new elements of life! It confirms daily its inability to continue except in the shadow of a fragmented people. After the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south, now the fire is encompassing the Sunni center.

It was striking that the outside world treated the events with silence and indifference. Although there was no media blackout of the incident in Washington, London, or Paris, its treatment continued to raise questions. This proves again that the issue of toppling the Saddam regime is still mere enthusiastic talk in certain diplomatic and security circles, without any practical plans. If such plans had existed, they would not have allowed an insurrection like the one that occurred to pass unexploited, even if the moment was not ripe to topple the regime. Naturally it is important to continue the pressure to implement the Security Council resolutions about liquidating the Iraqi military arsenal, but much time has been wasted without an inch of progress toward interest in the resolutions that are supposed to be concerned with what are called "human rights" in Iraq.

KDP Says PUK Attack 'Practically' Ends Truce

JN1007083895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[All Kurdish placenames as received]

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has stated the following:

At exactly 0200 on 9 July [2200 GMT], the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] launched an all-out attack on several major axes, which include:

1. The axis of Ziyarat-Shulawk-Kika.
2. The axis of Tsemik.
3. The axis of Niran toward Shaqlawah.

Fighting continued until 0530 on 9 July. Around 3,000 armed men of major PUK forces took part in the attack. They were led by Jabbar Sarman, member of the Political Bureau, and other PUK leaders. The attack was defeated and dozens of them were either killed of injured. Many bodies were left on the battlefield. Our forces seized a large quantity of weapons and hardware. We will announce more details later.

All these attacks target the Hamilton strategic road. They want to cut off transportation routes and supplies to our KDP forces. The PUK leaders carried out this attack despite the promises they made in front of the Kurdish and Iraqi parties and the friendly parties and governments in the region and the world. Thus, they have confirmed once again that their promises are worthless.

By this multifaceted attack, the PUK leadership has practically put an end to the truce. This leadership has threatened opportunities for peace. They alone are responsible for this.

[Signed] Spokesman for the Political Bureau of the KDP

[Dated] 9 July 1995

PUK Attack on Ziyarat Reportedly Repulsed

JN1007200695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Honest brothers and sons of our great people: After our heroic Peshmerga repulsed the all-out attack by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] on the axis of Ziyarat [name as heard] and its suburbs, the PUK forces again launched an attack at 2300 on the night of 9-10 July and tried their bad luck on the same axis. As soon as they reached Ziyarat village, our Peshmerga poured their fire on them from all directions. Following bloody fighting, our heroes

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repulsed the aggressors and taught them the harshest of lessons. The purging epic continued until the afternoon of 10 July. Ziyarat village and all the areas and heights surrounding it were purged from the Jalalist remnants, who left behind 10 bodies while they took with them scores of other bodies as well as scores of wounded.

The retreating forces poured their fire of hatred on the cattle of the citizens, inflicting heavy damages on the poor inhabitants of the area. They have faced the bitter truth with their lies and their falsehoods. Accursed may they be for these lies and falsehoods.

Ziyarat and its suburbs are free and lofty and are now protected from the Jalalists' terrorism, with the banner of the steadfast party [Kurdistan Democratic Party] fluttering over them.

Beloved citizens, with the liberation of Ziyarat and its suburbs and the fleeing of the Jalalist forces, the correspondents of our party's media visited the area to record the victory of the hero Peshmerga of Kurdistan who liberated Ziyarat and its suburbs and to report on the latest progress the Peshmerga of the party and the immortal Barzani have achieved.

KDP Dismisses PUK's 'Allegations' on Shelling

JN1007203595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners we have the following clarification: To the people of holy Irbil in particular and to the people of Kurdistan in general: In its radio programs, the media of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] carried a fabricated and weird report on the evening of 10 July in which it alleged that the forces of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP] shelled the complexes of (Shawaysh) and (Ferzin).

We announce to all parties — the people of the region can confirm this — that this report is groundless. We announce that the PUK's exposed allegations are sheer lies, that our troops did not shell the aforementioned complexes, and that the mere purpose of these false allegations is to conceal the crime of shelling the innocent in the complex of (Tatnazan) by the PUK's troops before the eyes of the people of Kurdistan. This shelling further exposed them to our masses as they witnessed the massacre. We condemn the PUK's practices against innocent citizens.

Talabani's Forces Reportedly Attack KDP Areas

JN1007205295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0130 on the night of 9-10 July, the Jalalists [Jalal Talabani] forces attacked our [Kurdistan Democratic Party — KDP] Peshmerga positions in Hawrazanat and the suburbs of Katnazan [placenames as heard]. Our hero Peshmerga on the Katnazan axis confronted the enemy attack, repulsing these forces and pursuing their defeated remnants. The Jalalists left behind six bodies opposite the positions of the heroes from the martyr Khadr Siwarah Brigade. Our heroes seized several pieces of weapons and more than 30 RPG launchers.

Before launching their failed attack, the Jalalists shelled the Katnazan complex at noon on 9 July in a fierce and indiscriminate manner, martyring scores of defenseless citizens, including women and children. They followed this with the attack that the hero Peshmerga of Kurdistan repulsed, forcing them to retreat.

Inter-Kurdish Clashes Rise; Irbil Residents Flee

JN1107200395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the autonomous region [northern Iraq] say that unprecedented, large-scale clashes took place today in Irbil Governorate between the Talabani and Barzani groups in which all kinds of light and heavy weapons were employed.

The two opportunistic gangs in the autonomous region last week began a large-scale mobilization of their armed men coupled with campaigns of recriminations launched between the two sides.

Clashes between the two sides began two days ago but they expanded yesterday and today, and included the Halabjah, Rawanduz, Shaqlawah areas, and Irbil suburbs. Each of the two gangs claimed that it inflicted heavy losses on the other.

Reports say that anarchy is spreading in Irbil and that a large number of the population is abandoning the town. A great number of the inhabitants near the areas of hostilities abandoned their villages in panic. Many casualties were inflicted on civilians who belong to neither groups.

In the Mirga Sur area north of the Dahuk Governorate, the Turkish side said that it will withdraw its forces from the region soon and that it killed 137 Kurds thus far, whom it claimed belong to the PKK, the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party. Reports say more than 700 Iraqi Kurdish families in that sector abandoned their villages aimlessly to escape the Turkish shelling of the region.

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Radio Rounds Up KDP's Clashes With PUK Forces

JN1207073595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jul 95

[All Kurdish placenames as heard]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 0200 on the night of 10-11 July, the Jalalis [followers of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK] launched an attack on the positions of our forces in Basharjah, 12 km northwest of Irbil. The criminal Jalalis shelled Basharjah and its complex with artillery. As a result of the attack, many civilians, especially women and children, were martyred or wounded. The peshmergas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and [Mustafa] Barzani confronted them with all types of weapons, inflicting on them a bitter defeat. Many of the Jalalis were killed and wounded and the others were forced to leave the area. Our forces in Brigade 22d and units from the 24th, 9th, and 29th Brigades from the II Corps, in addition to the masses of the militant area, took part in this heroic epic-like battle.

Long live the peshmergas of the KDP and Barzani; long live the people; long live freedom. Shame on Jalal Talabani and his mercenaries.

At 0100 on the night of 10-11 July, the Jalalis launched a large- scale attack on the defense positions of the KDP peshmergas in the Shaqlawah-Niran axis. Our heroic peshmergas confronted them, and after one hour the Jalalis sustained heavy losses and were forced to flee toward their positions.

May God keep you safe o peshmergas of the KDP and Barzani. Strike at those who encroach on the property of the poor citizens of villages.

On the night of 10-11 July, the defeated Jalalis brutally shelled Baharjah and Malla 'Umar complexes to avenge their bitter defeat in the Ziyarat. A 27-year old woman was martyred in Malla 'Umar in this attack and another eight civilians, including children and women, were wounded. Following is a list of their names and ages: [passage omitted]

Following their brutal and indiscriminate shelling of Baharjah and Malla 'Umar on the night of 10-11 July, the Jalalis launched a large-scale attack on Baharjah and entered the village of Kalakan for a short while. In the morning of 11 July, the peshmergas of Kurdistan confronted them and attacked them with all types of weapons to revenge the defenseless innocent people. The peshmergas of Kurdistan inflicted, in a few hours, heavy losses on the Jalalis who had no choice but to escape from the anger of the KDP peshmergas, leaving behind them 15 dead and their weapons and ammunition. After purging Baharjah from the filth of the Jalalis, the heroes of the KDP peshmergas launched a counterattack on the Jalalis in the village Kalakan and purged the entire area from them in the afternoon of 11 July.

May God keep you safe o heroes of the KDP and Barzani. May God grant you victory.

In the morning of 11 July, the Jalalis attacked the defense positions of our heroic peshmergas in Doniparitan. However, our heroic peshmergas confronted them and forced them to flee, leaving six dead behind them.

On the night of 10-11 July, the KDP peshmergas chased the cowardly defeated Jalalis in the axis of Ziyarat. In a heroic assault, our heroic peshmergas purged the entire Ziyarat [words indistinct], forcing them to flee to the lap of their masters.

As a result of the fighting imposed by the Jalalis, many dead bodies arrived in the cities and villages of Kurdistan.

1. On 10 July, approximately 20 bodies arrived in Chamchamal area.
2. On 11 July, approximately 35 bodies arrived in Karadun, approximately 40 bodies in Raniyah and its outskirts, 12 bodies in the [word indistinct] mosque in al-Sulaymaniyah.

This is the gift of the Jalalis to those who place their fate in the hands of those criminal thieves who, in their turn, push them to war to impose their dictatorship and power.

KDP To Deal 'Deadly Blow' to Talabani's PUK

JN1207101595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Station commentary: "Jalal Talabani Has Lost and the Kurdish People Have Triumphed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear citizens: What does the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] hide now that its attacks have been defeated this time also and now that the chapter of its ill-omened coup has gone with the wind of anger coming from the peshmergas and the masses of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]. The PUK ignited this fierce war to gain power, and since May 1994, the PUK has been trying to change the political map of Kurdistan through force and violence.

In his last days, Jalal Talabani has been playing his biggest political game and has been trying to resolve all problems and disputes by force. He has forgotten that the weapon he is using is double-edged and might be turned against him if he does not use it well.

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Jalal Talabani and his military commanders believed that they can tip political and military balance in their favor. However, the results of their attacks disproved their hopes and came contrary to their illegitimate ambitions. As we said earlier, their miscalculation this time is worse than before.

The visit [to Kurdistan] by the U.S. State Department delegation has shown that Jalal Talabani is not ready to accept any peaceful solution to the crisis. In its response to the U.S. delegation, as well as to other internal and foreign quarters, our party presented a practical plan to resolve the crisis. Our party considered the evacuation from the city of Irbil the key to the political solution to the crisis. The KDP plan was welcomed by mediators and all parties because if this problem remains unresolved the crisis will continue.

Since the beginning of the [words indistinct] the PUK, our party has responded positively with mediators' efforts, as well as with the plans and proposals of the Kurdish and Iraqi parties, Iran, Turkey, the West, and America. In all the talks it attended in this regard, our party has considered the issue of Irbil the main factor in resolving the crisis. However, the Jalalis, particularly Jalal Talabani personally, have not moved one single step in this direction. On the contrary, he launched threats seeking confrontation.

Our KDP, and brother Mas'ud Barzani in particular, announced a unilateral truce on 7 April at the request of the Kurdish parties and many Kurds. Consequently, the cease-fire was maintained for three months. However, the PUK ridiculed the truce and violated the cease-fire in several places, such as Daraband, (Kasnazan), (Iran), and other areas. Moreover, it did not stop the course of chasing, expelling, and stealing the partisans and supporters of our party— something which is considered another violation of the truce.

The Jalalis did not stop at this point. Furthermore, on the night of 8-9 July, they completely killed the truce despite the pledges they had made to Iran, the U.S. delegation, and the Kurdish parties, to extend the truce. This time also, the Jalalis did not keep their promises and proved to be adept in breaking promises.

A review of their history, particularly from 1 May 1994 until now — the period of war which they imposed on our party — shows that the Jalalis never hesitated in aiming their treacherous arrows whenever they found that this would be in their interest.

This time also, they tried to peddle their schemes through treason and deception. So, they broke the promises they made to the people and mediators, and even to their cadres. They have chose circumstances which they thought would help them defeat the KDP. However, their heads were smashed on the rock of the KDP and received a devastating blow.

The Kurdish people can no longer tolerate the treason and treachery of Jalal Talabani. They view his destructive and treacherous course as a threat to their cause now and in the future. The peshmergas of the KDP and Barzani have proved that they are the protectors of the people and their achievements. They will foil any aggressive scheme by Talabani. Our peshmergas can deal strong blows to the Jalalis and teach them tougher lessons. The time has gone in which the Jalalis can feel that they are superior over people and can boast of being better than others. They must understand that the age of injustice, tyranny, and dictatorship has gone. In the name of all Kurds, the democratic parties and forces, and all faithful strugglers in Kurdistan, the KDP will deal a deadly blow to the aggressors no matter who supports them. The KDP is the conscience of the Kurdish nation, the carrier of the flag of the immortal Barzani, and the largest and most important national Kurdish force stemming from the heart of Kurdish history. Whatever the Jalalis do, they will certainly fail. Jalal Talabani has lost his historic conflict and the Kurdish people will certainly triumph and restore their legitimate rights. The KDP, together with the democratic and good forces, will build a sound democratic parliamentary system under which the Kurdish people will live securely and happily far away from starvation and wars.

'Aziz Addresses Baghdad Christian Conference

JN0607134195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1204 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—In its session today the Second World Christian Conference hosted Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who explained the developments of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council since 1990 maliciously seek to harass the Iraqis, prolong the unfair blockade, bring Iraq under hegemony and domination, and loot Iraq's oil wealth, especially after the downfall of the Soviet Union and the world was brought under unilateral control.

In an address to the Second World Christian Conference today, Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iraqis under leader President Saddam Husayn are bravely and firmly capable of patience and steadfastness in the face of the U.S. Administration's suspect schemes, attributing this to the Iraqi individual's ancient cultural heritage, civilized nature, and defiance.

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The deputy prime minister added that Iraq responded to all resolutions issued by the United Nations under clear U.S. influence. He noted Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council's demands, especially in the field of disarmament, close cooperation with the international organizations and observers, and recognition of Kuwait and its border in order to ease and lift the unfair blockade and end the suffering of the Iraqis, proceeding from a historic responsibility toward the people of Iraq.

He stressed that the continued blockade cannot make the Iraqis lose their faith in independence and national sovereignty. He said that the Iraqis are part of an ancient nation which fought throughout history for the sake of its principles. He said this nation to which the Iraqis belong is capable now of resisting the biggest covetous state in the world.

The morning session was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'di, secretary general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization; and intellectual, scientific, and religious personalities.

Conference Ends; Statement Issued

JN0707063595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The participants in the Second World Christian Conference have paid tribute to the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of aggression and the embargo imposed on them. The participants stressed that this steadfastness will serve as a beacon for all peoples of the world so as to preserve their dignity and freedom.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of its work this evening, the conference urged world parliaments to support the Iraqi people's just cause. The statement said the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people is a crime against humanity.

The participants in the conference expressed their thanks and appreciation to Iraq, led by President Saddam Husayn, for the positive atmosphere provided by it for holding this conference and making it a success.

In its final statement, the conference said the stands of the states and humanitarian organizations that showed understanding and sympathized with the people of Iraq should be developed to have the blockade lifted. The statement also called for ending injustice everywhere, achieving justice, fighting evil, and confronting the arrogance of power through peace and amity so that peace will be achieved on this earth.

The conference recommended launching a new world-wide campaign of solidarity with the Iraqi people. It designated 10 September as a day in which prayers will be held for the lifting of the Iraqi people's suffering. That day will be called the Day of Solidarity With the Iraqi People.

The Second World Christian Conference was held in Baghdad between 4-6 July under the slogan "The Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity" with the participation of 90 figures representing churches of 30 countries.

Oppositionist Quits Congress in Protest

MM0607140695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An Iraqi oppositionist has talked about what he described as a trend toward "ethnic and sectarian fragmentation of Iraq by the Unified Iraqi National Congress" [UINC], the largest opposition organization. Dr. Walid al-Tamimi has resigned from the UINC "out of my desire to continue to be an independent oppositionist to Saddam's regime."

This came in a handwritten letter sent to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London by Sa'd Salih Jabr, chairman of the Iraqi Free Council.

Addressing members of the UINC's Presidential Council, al-Tamimi said: "I participated in the UINC's constituent meeting held in Salah al-Din in October 1992 in the hope that the Iraqi opposition factions would be united. The final statement issued by the Congress after the departure of the members was an insincere expression of what was agreed upon and carried the seeds of Iraq's ethnic and sectarian fragmentation. Furthermore, the nonparticipation of the Arab nationalist trend deprived the Congress of the historical balancing factor which had been a main feature of the Iraqi political scene. I have publicly confirmed my position since the early days following my return from Salah al-Din."

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'Diplomatic Incident' With Egypt Over Talks Venue

TA1107184795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A sharp diplomatic incident has occurred between Israel and Egypt in view of the decision to move the talks with the Palestinians to Italy and not to hold them in Cairo, Egypt. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that Egypt had pressed hard against moving the talks, but Jerusalem decided that the talks must be moved from the Middle East to make them more efficient.

Syrian 'Agreement' on Warning Station Reported

TA1107183395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Qobi Marenko]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Israel, there is agreement on a warning station under international supervision, but it is claimed that it is not enough, and an aerial warning station is also demanded. The defense establishment has began examining early warning systems. Our correspondent Qobi Marenko reports:

[Begin Marenko recording] It is believed in Israel that a Syrian agreement to place a warning station on the Golan Heights refers to the Hermon outpost. If an international force is stationed here, it would operate the equipment and transfer the information to a rear Israel Defense Forces [IDF] command post. It is clear that the Israeli ability to observe every movement of forces on the Syrian side and to listen to what is happening there will be impaired. Part of the secret equipment currently employed in the post will be dismantled to prevent its exposure; the warning the IDF will be getting will be shorter than today; and, if a war breaks out, the forces in the field will not be able to rely on intelligence information from the Hermon outpost.

This is why the defense establishment will not give up aerial warning devices. Air Force officers have already examined the Israel Aircraft Industries' Falcon and praised its performance. [passage omitted]

It should be remembered that, in return for a warning station on the Golan, the Syrians will receive information from their station that would be placed in Galilee. Every movement of a plane in the Ramat David Air Force base will be known on the other side of the border as well.

The Syrian agreement, therefore, is a mere starting point for discussion about equipment in the warning stations and the composition of the aerial system. These issues will be raised in the officers' talks that are to resume at the end of the month in Washington. [end recording]

Commentator Reviews Debate

TA1107165095 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff, HA'ARETZ military commentator, followed by an interview with Schiff by Amnon Levi, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Levi] Warning stations on the Golan is the hot story of the day, and Syria, or rather a Syrian radio commentator, has said that Syria will agree to have early warning stations provided they are manned by an international force. We asked Ze'ev Schiff, HA'ARETZ' military commentator, to travel to the Golan Heights and prepare a series of investigative reports in anticipation of the security arrangements and about what they are supposed to be. The first report is about just this issue: A warning station — where should it be placed and how will it work? Let us watch the report:

[Begin Schiff recording] Placing Israeli warning stations on the Golan Heights after the withdrawal is a serious point of disagreement in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. The Syrians maintain that Israel must pull out from the entire Golan Heights and leave nothing behind, not even warning stations. The presence of warning stations, such as those Israel has today, constitutes a violation of Syrian sovereignty, they say. The Syrians also do not want Israel to peek into what is called Syrian bedrooms in Damascus.

Israel's view of the warning stations is totally different. Warning stations are a central and most important element in reducing the possibility of a surprise Syrian attack. Israel was surprised in the Yom Kippur war, despite the fact that it had a warning station on Mt. Hermon. At the same time, we must not forget that then we did not have demilitarized zones, buffer zones, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was facing the Syrian Army. The IDF lost dozens of lives to recapture the Hermon station. From here, we can look deep into Syrian territory in the direction of Damascus. Presently, we want to be able to observe preparations for a Syrian attack. Other elements of the security arrangements will also be used, but the most important thing is the Hermon outpost.

Israel insists that the outpost be manned only by Israelis. It would not settle for placing equipment on the mountain that would be operated from deep in Israeli territory. Warning stations on smaller hills such as

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Avital and Bental could also contribute to early warning. Israel will also demand that, in the framework of the supervising system, sophisticated sensors be located in the various passages. They will immediately determine whether the Syrians are moving armored units, for example, into a demilitarized zone.

Israel rejects the claim that satellites and spy planes could be a substitute for a ground warning station. Experts have confirmed that even advanced satellites may be limited by weather conditions or technical problems. As proof of its intentions, Israel is willing to allow Syria to place a warning station in the Galilee, while it is clear that Israel has no intention whatsoever of launching a sudden attack on Damascus. [end recording]

[Levi] Would you be calm if you had such a warning station?

[Schiff] It is not enough. The truth is that the station should be viewed in the framework of the comprehensive agreements. As I said before, we were surprised despite the fact that we had a warning station in 1973. This is why the station should be one element, accompanied by demilitarization, a buffer zone, an international force in the broader buffer zone, and mutual supervision by the parties.

[Levi] How many stations would be required for you to sleep peacefully?

[Schiff] I assume that Israel will demand three stations in, for example, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Avital, or Mt. Yosifun. I will repeat, however: The Hermon station is the most important one; it is known as the eyes of the state.

[Levi] A Syria radio commentator has agreed in principle, but said he does not want Israeli troops there, suggesting that a multinational force, meaning Americans, man the station. Is this acceptable to you?

[Schiff] Look, there is no such thing as a Syrian commentator saying what he personally thinks about anything. And yet, I would like to hear the Syrian side saying this directly to the Israeli side with the Americans witnessing it. I would also examine what exactly the Syrians were given by the Americans at the same time; what they were promised. As for myself, I would want Israelis stationed there.

[Levi] What can Israelis do that Americans cannot?

[Schiff] Look, there used to be an American warning station in the Sinai soon after the 1975 interim agreement, but there is no American warning station in the Sinai today. There is no non- Israeli warning station in the Sinai, such as the one that was once in Umm-Hashibah. Therefore, because of the structure of the territory, we must be there. Timetables will, of course, have to be discussed, but we must be there.

[Levi] What exactly did you mean when you said that a warning station could even have a view of Syrian bedrooms?

[Schiff] Well, this is a visual term. I meant that we not only can hear, but we can also see. No one would go into details about exactly what they can do. The fact that the issue is very important to us and that Israel is serious can be seen in the Israeli offer to the Syrians to have a view of us. I believe this to be a very generous offer. When Israel tells them: you may come to the Galilee, but we want to stay on Mt. Hermon — it is an indication of the importance of the issue. [passage omitted]

Peres: 'Arafat, al-Asad Represent Past

TA1207110195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 12 July, in a 700-word report by Evelyn Gordon and news agencies on page 1, notes that in his comments to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the meeting of the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff on "June 27-29 was a success 'in the opinion of both sides and of the Americans,' and that these meetings will continue. Only after the security issues are resolved will the political negotiations begin, he said.

"However, in a rare move, Peres followed up his praise of the progress on the Syrian front with criticism of al-Asad.

"PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and al-Asad, he told the committee, 'represent the past more than the future. I'm not at all certain that al-Asad represents the future'."

In addition, "Peres said Israel would retain a 'blocking and deterrent force' against Syria in any agreement. Water, he admitted, was a worry in such an agreement — 'but even today, if the Syrians wanted to make problems regarding the water (supply), they could,' he added."

In a 250-word report on page 2 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Evelyn Gordon adds that Peres told the committee: "Unlike in Gaza, in Judaea and Samaria I am in favor of leaving all the settlements (during the interim agreement." Peres said: "The question is the relations between the settlements and the Arab residents," adding that "if the settlers were to ask my advice, I would advise them to improve their relations with the Arab residents."

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"Regarding the redeployment, Peres said that while Palestinian police would be responsible for maintaining order in the major cities, 'the primary responsibility for security (in the 420 villages) will be in our hands — including the possibility of entering the villages.'

"Israel will also be responsible for 'most of the security on the roads,' he said.

"'The final decisions will be in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces'] hands. And we are aware of the need to pave the bypass roads before completing the withdrawal (from Ramallah and Bethlehem).'"

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Udovenko Visits

Holds Talks With Rabin

LD1107144895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine sees the expansion of bilateral links with Israel as one of the priorities in its foreign policy in the Middle East. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said this to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Hennadiy Udovenko is heading a Ukrainian delegation on an official visit to Israel.

During the meeting the sides discussed economic cooperation and agreed on setting up a commission that will develop specific measures directed at deepening cooperation between Ukraine and Israel in the most important industries.

In a brief interview for correspondents, Ukraine's foreign minister described the meeting as open, businesslike, and constructive, which will undoubtedly continue in the ensuing actions of the two countries.

Says Kiev Can't Partipate in Peace Process

LD1107193095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 11 Jul 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JERUSALEM, July 11 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine cannot take an active part in the process of the Middle East settlement, because it became an independent state "too late", Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said in Jerusalem on Monday.

On the same day he held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Ezer Weizmann. The Ukrainian foreign minister will meet with Shim'on Peres and chairman of the Israeli parliament Shivakh Weis on Tuesday.

Udovenko said that he had agreed with the Israeli prime minister on creating a bilateral commission, which at the level of experts will solve concrete problems of trade, scientific and technological cooperation.

Signs Trade, Cooperation Agreements

LD1107201495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 11 Jul 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JERUSALEM, July 11 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The Ukrainian and Israeli Foreign Ministers, Hennadiy Udovenko and Shim'on Peres, met in Jerusalem Tuesday [11 July] to sign a trade and economic cooperation agreement between the two countries. They also issued a joint communique.

One other agreement on cooperation in the area of tourism was signed by Peres and Vladimir Skrypnik, head of the Ukrainian state committee for tourism.

Speaking afterwards, Peres said his country wanted to develop wide-ranging contacts with Ukraine.

He said Ukraine was of special importance to Israel given that 300,000 Israelis come from Ukraine. "For a variety of reasons, the very spirit of Israel was born in Ukraine," Peres said.

Notes Interest in Joint Arms Projects

TA1207104095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko says Ukraine wants to establish joint weapons factories with Israel in order to take advantage of the latter's industrial capabilities in this field and its experience selling products worldwide. Mr. Udovenko spoke with our correspondent Gid'on Remez before departing on a visit to the Israel Military Industries.

Udovenko denied foreign reports that Ukraine is selling weapons, especially new tanks, to Arab countries and Iran, among others.

The Ukrainian foreign minister said that during his current visit to Israel, he has not discussed the status of former Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskiy, who is currently in Israel and who is wanted in Ukraine for embezzling $25 million. Udovenko said letters have already been exchanged between the Justice Ministries of the two countries regarding this issue; however, he refused to say whether Ukraine intends to seek Zvyahilskiy's extradition.

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Commentary Views Defense Relations With PRC

TA0707184095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Aluf Ben: "Maneuvering Between Giants"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Next week, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri will depart for a trip to China during which he will discuss the sale of Israeli weapons systems. This trip creates a double dilemma for the Rabin government: Should Israel continue to export defense systems to China, which is helping Iran develop nuclear weapons and missiles, and how should it ward off pressure from the United States, which is demanding that Israel stop selling weapons to China and has asked for clarifications about this visit?

'Ivri is departing for Beijing during a low point in our defense relations with the PRC, relations which climaxed in the 1980's in large deals on upgrading tanks and air-to-air missiles and in aid for the development of a new Chinese combat jet based on the Lavi project. During the past five years, our defense exports to the PRC totaled only $31.5 million. The Chinese are not rushing to buy; Rabin's visit less than two years ago did not thaw the frozen relations.

Israel plays a marginal role in the determination of PRC foreign policy. The Chinese attribute only secondary importance to the Middle East and regard it mainly as a weapons market. Thus, over the past few years, the PRC has become a main supplier of weapons to Syria and Iran. According to Western intelligence reports, China provides Iran with its "strongest and biggest nuclear backing." It has agreed to supply Iran with nuclear reactors (although the deal is being delayed); is helping in the training of nuclear scientists and technicians; and is providing know-how and components for the manufacture of missiles, as well as materials that could be used for the production of chemical weapons.

The senior levels of the Defense Ministry support the continuation of defense exports to the PRC despite its relations with Iran, claiming that this provides Israel with some moderating influence over the transfer of the dangerous weapons to its enemies. In the past, the Chinese have shown attentiveness to Israel's claims but have been adamant about their deals with Iran.

Israel has a clear interest in entering the enormous Chinese market, but it has been speaking with several voices: The Defense Ministry is trying to sell weapons to China, while the Foreign Ministry is conducting an international information campaign against Iran in which the PRC is depicted as the main supplier of destructive know-how to the Iranian terror regime. The Foreign Ministry is also careful, however, not to confront the PRC in the open.

The Israeli perplexity involves not only the problem of coordination between various government branches. Unwittingly, Israel has entered the heart of the storm in U.S.-PRC relations. In Israel's relations with China, Rabin has reached the limits of leeway given by the United States to Israel in conducting its foreign policy. The senior U.S. political echelon attributes supreme importance to the continuation of the peace process and attaining an Israeli-Syrian agreement and is thus avoiding harassing Rabin on other issues. On the professional level, however, enormous pressure is being brought to bear on Israel to step aside so that it will not be harmed in the battle of the giants being conducted between Washington and Beijing.

The U.S. pressure is being exerted through many channels. The U.S. press is inundated with leaks in which the PRC is depicted as posing a great threat and Israel, alongside Russia, is presented as one of the PRC's key sources for modern military technology. This press also claims that Israel is aiding the PRC in conducting nuclear tests, which are causing great anger in the international community.

U.S. Administration officials have told their Israeli counterparts that the United States opposes the transfer of sophisticated technology to China. Initially, they claimed that Israel sold U.S. technology to the PRC without authorization; later on, they demanded that Israel refrain from selling Israeli technology and warned that this know-how could filter through from China to Iran.

The U.S. Administration has acquitted Israel of most suspicions about its selling U.S. military technology in the Third World. On one issue alone it is not easing the pressure: the new Chinese combat jet. The Americans claim that the Lavi systems, which the Chinese have purchased from Israel, were partly developed on the basis of U.S. knowledge. The Clinton administration has tried to improve the dialogue with Beijing, but the Republican victory in Congress has exacerbated the U.S. approach to China. Several weeks ago, a crisis erupted after the Taiwanese president received a visa to the United States (Israel refused to host him and earned the PRC's praise for this). The Chinese suspended the arms control talks, and Washington was immediately inundated with leaks about PRC aid for the development of Iranian surface-to-surface missiles. Israel was not directly accused, but the administration saw to it that it would get the hint. Furthermore, diplomatic channels of communication were used for relaying messages regarding the PRC's relations with Iran.

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So far, Israel has not succumbed to the pressure and has clarified that it intends to pursue its relations with the PRC. 'Ivri told the Americans that the scope of Israeli exports to China is insignificant in comparison with U.S. companies which have supplied China with sophisticated technologies and have even tried to elbow Israeli competitors out of the market. The present visit is important for Israel in terms of preserving its credibility, among other things. Even after the Tienanmen massacre, Israel stood by China and did not take part in the international isolation imposed on it. Most important, Israel is not a superpower like the United States. If it cools its relations with China now, it will be unable to resume them when the crisis passes.

Rabin will be required to preserve his brinkmanship and to use President Bill Clinton's support to ward off the pressure and dispatch 'Ivri to Beijing. The new agreement with the Palestinians and the progress achieved in the negotiations with Syria provide Israel with some leeway in its relations with Asia's rising superpower and a chance for resuming its defense exports to the PRC.

Hundreds of Settlers Clash With Police

TA1207044195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night, settlers from Efrat, in the 'Etzyon Bloc, placed a mobile home on Hazayit Hill, adjacent to the settlement, resulting in a sharp clash with the police. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports the police managed to stop several trucks that were transporting mobile homes to Hazayit Hill. A police officer says that hundreds of settlers stormed his patrol car, threw stones, tried to overturn it, and punctured two of its tires. The settlers, for their part, claim the government is delaying the development of Hazayit Hill, which is why they decided to bring mobile homes to the site. An order issued by the commander of the Central Command stipulates that no mobile homes are to be moved without his permission.

Hundreds of settlers from Efrat and the 'Etzyon Bloc are currently blocking the Jerusalem-Hebron road near the entrance to Efrat to protest the fact that they are not being permitted to place 16 more mobile homes on Hazayit Hill.

Demonstration Ends; Police Detain 25

TA1207053595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The police and Border Police used force to evacuate settlers from Efrat and the 'Etzyon Bloc this morning, after the settlers blocked the Jerusalem-Hebron road. Twenty-five settlers were detained, among them Uri Ari'el, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and Efrat Mayor Yinon Ahiman. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that council leaders instructed the demonstrators to leave the site. Traffic on the road has returned to normal. [passage omitted]

Settlers Urged 'To Shoot' Palestinian Police

TA1107180695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, called on settlers to shoot at Palestinian policemen even without any provocation from the latter in areas where there are no bypass roads.

Wallerstein told Qol Yisra'el that whenever settlers encounter armed Palestinians on roads where there are no bypass routes, the settlers must view this as constituting a direct threat to their lives and shoot to kill. [passage omitted]

Commander: IDF No Longer Holding Back in North

TA1107174595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, has said that the government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] decided not to hold themselves back anymore in light of the katyusha attacks on Israel's northern settlements. Speaking with the heads of the northern settlements this afternoon, Gen. Levin said that the IDF reaction, when it comes, will be strong. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden.

Rabin Sees No Peace Without 'Territorial Price'

TA1207100995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday that there can be no peace with Israel keeping all or most of the Golan Heights. Anyone who says this is lying to the public.

[Begin Rabin recording] I am not saying whether we will withdraw from the Golan Heights. I believe that achieving peace with Syria is very significant, because peace with both Egypt and Syria means an end to wars and an end to bloodshed in Lebanon. There can be no peace with us keeping all or most of the Golan Heights.

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Anyone who says this is simply lying to the public. We must persevere on the road of peace, without getting into the details of the price entailed at this moment. There is no peace, however, without a territorial price. [end recording]

Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports that the prime minister was speaking with Lod youths yesterday.

Poll Shows Most Opposed to IDF Pullout of West Bank

TA0707094695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 p 1

["MA'ARIV poll" by the Mutagim Institute for Market Research and Public Opinion]

[FBIS Translated Text] Do you support the agreement about to be signed on the pullout of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the West Bank towns?

Do not support, 53 percent; Support, 33 percent.

Will the IDF's withdrawal from the West Bank towns lower your feeling of personal security?

Lower, 56 percent; Increase, 21 percent; Unchanged, 3 percent.

Have you supported the peace process with the Palestinians from the Oslo Accords until the present day?

Support, 52 percent; Not support, 39 percent.

The poll was conducted on 5 July among 506 people, who make up a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. Maximum margin of error is 4.5 percent.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 7 July page 2 carries a similar poll by the Dahaf Institute. On the question of the IDF's withdrawal from the Arab cities, 45 percent said they support it, 53 percent oppose it, and 2 percent did not respond. Asked whether "you are concerned about your personal security or that of your family following the IDF's withdrawal from West Bank towns," 64 percent said they are worried, 34 percent said they are not concerned, and 2 percent did not respond. Asked "do you support or oppose settlers organizing to replace IDF soldiers after the evacuation," 30 percent said they support it, 66 percent oppose it, and 4 percent did not respond. The poll was carried out among 501 interviewees and the margin of error is 4 percent. The date of the poll was not given.]

'Expose' on Ze'elim Threatens Baraq Appointment

TA0907171395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Israeli political and military establishments have been shocked by allegations of a cover-up in the investigation of the incident at the Ze'elim training base in which five elite combat soldiers were killed. As the issue is debated in public and former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq cuts short a visit to China to answer some of the charges which were published in the afternoon paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT [on 7 July], the Movement for Quality Government in Israel has called for a commission of inquiry. With this story, Mark Weiss:

[Begin Weiss recording] On 5 November 1992, five members of the elite General Staff commando unit were killed at the Ze'elim training base when a missile was fired by mistake during what was termed a very complex and involved exercise. After leaks in the foreign press, it was confirmed that the chief of staff at the time, Ehud Baraq, and his deputy Amnon Shahaq, the current chief of staff, along with other senior generals, were present at the exercise. Unconfirmed reports said the exercise was a dry run for an assassination attempt against Saddam Husayn.

A military court that investigated the incident handed down a three-month conditional sentence to two officers and reduced their ranks after they were found guilty of negligence. The reprimand received by 'Amiram Levin did not stop his promotion to the head of Northern Command, and the head of military intelligence at the time, Uri Sagi, was not reprimanded. There was criticism at the time that while middle-level officers had been blamed, the top echelon was untouched.

But that was not the end of the Ze'elim B affair. On Friday, the YEDI'OT AHARONOT newspaper published a widespread expose of the whole affair, alleging, amongst other things, that former Chief of Staff Baraq stood by as the wounded and dying were being treated and that he left the site in his helicopter before all the wounded were evacuated. It also claims that Baraq altered his own testimony, giving different versions at different times.

This story was based largely, although not exclusively, on information gathered over the last two years by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel. The movement has sent a letter to both the prime minister and the attorney general demanding that a state commission of inquiry be set up to investigate the allegations. At the same time, they call for no one involved to be appointed to any public position until the end of the inquiry. The movement outlines a whole series of military command failures and what it calls immoral and unethical behavior. It condemns not only the military echelons but the army judicial branch, the military censor, and the army spokesman. The movement says there is a case for crim-

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inal prosecution. [passage omitted with interview with movement activist]

Responding to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT story, the army spokesman said much of the information is not new and some of it is inaccurate or just plain lies. The army spokesman stresses that Baraq left the scene 45 minutes after the disaster, when he ascertained there were enough medical crews and that the wounded were being loaded onto other helicopters.

Baraq, currently in China, denies the YEDI'OT AHARONOT story and says he will give his version when he returns home in a few days.

Labor Party Secretary General Nisim Zvili has discussed the issue with the prime minister but says that if it becomes clear that Baraq was involved in an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] cover-up, there will be need for a rethink on government positions. Baraq is expected to become the new interior minister in the near future.

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin came to Baraq's defense and accused YEDI'OT AHARONOT of a character assassination. Other MK's have backed the call for a commission of inquiry or a parliamentary investigation. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 9 July, in a report by Dani Zaqen, carries Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's first comment on the Ze'elim B incident in the wake of the YEDI'OT AHARONOT report. In a recorded passage, Prime Minister Rabin says: "I have faith in the IDF's legal and investigating systems, which did what they were called on to do." Zaqen says "Rabin rejected the charge that he knew about the alleged efforts to whitewash the affair and stressed that the IDF did all it could to deal with the tragedy in the proper manner." The report adds that "the prime minister refused to discuss the issue of former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq's appointment as minister following the accusations about his behavior during the tragedy." Rabin made the remarks "during a ceremony marking the signing of the convention on the quality of service to the public."]

Security Forces Raid Janin Waqf Offices

TA0907090295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces raided the offices of the Islamic Waqf in Janin at the end of last week. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem said that security personnel searched the offices and confiscated documents. Security officials told our correspondent that the raid came in the framework of activities against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories.

'Leftist Media' Said 'Confusing' Public

TA1007045595 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a Mutagim poll published in Ma'ariv, 7/7/95, 53 percent of the people polled oppose the current stage of the agreement which calls for an IDF retreat from 4-6 major towns in Judaea and Samaria. Only 33 percent answered that they support the retreat.

The same poll asked: Will the army retreat from the towns in the territories diminish or increase your personal sense of security?

56 percent answered that it would diminish their security; 21 percent said it would increase their security; 3 percent said it would have no effect.

The same poll also asked: Do you support the Oslo accords with the "Palestinians" up until today?

52 percent answered yes, they support it; 39 percent answered no, they don't support it Judean Voice Commentary:

There can be no greater testament to the success of the leftist media in confusing the masses than the results of this poll.

How is it possible to oppose the second phase of the Oslo accords and support the first phase at the same time? It is all part of a comprehensive "peace" deal. Without the second phase the first phase of concessions are irrelevant and the whole deal is null and void. Naturally, the whole deal will be nullified once the issue of Jerusalem comes up in the last stage of the negotiations. Even if Israel concedes and surrenders Jerusalem, there will surely follow additional demands concerning the "return" of millions of "Palestinians" or some other impossible demand of the Arabs.

This poll portrays the effectiveness of the "peace" propaganda which both the left and the right have promulgated for so long. Peace has become a magic word, despite the fact that it is an unattainable illusion today. Anyone, who opposes the current "peace" deal becomes an enemy of peace and an outcast in Israeli society. And so, one can oppose every principal and conclusion of the current "peace" deal while still supporting the overall Oslo "peace". The Israeli media and the Israeli politicians from all sides of the political spectrum have created a monster called "peace" which is nothing more than the piece by piece destruction of Israel.

The sad part about it is that the people of Israel are truly opposed to the substance of the deal. The media has so successfully manipulated the minds of the people

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creating political schizophrenics who no longer know who they are and who have been effectively neutralized from forming any significant opposition to the current suicidal process.

I can't blame the un-Jewish and undemocratic bias Israeli media. After all, they have a pro-Arab agenda. It is the so called right-wing and religious camp who should have been the first to reject the sanctification of the word "peace", all of these years. Peace at any price is the self destructive illusion which plagues the weak and the tired. The right and religious could have ignited hope, passion and strength by proclaiming that peace was not the main ideal of the Zionist fathers who came to Palestine to establish a Jewish state. Instead, our myopic "leaders" helped peddle the "peace" fraud because of their fear of being called war mongers by the leftists who control the Israeli media. Even Shamir, who criticized the late Menachem Begin "for wanting to be loved by everyone", fell in to the same trap when he went to the International Peace Conference in Madrid. For those who have forgotten, it was that cursed conference which gave birth to the Oslo "peace" monster.

There is only one way to put this monster to rest. The only way is by reviving the true idealism that Zionist and Religious leaders once had and by ignoring the reaction of the world and the leftists. As long as we are concerned and obsessed with the response of the left and America, we will be completely paralyzed to offer a real alternative to the monster. Today, the right has become a partner and part of the monster, despite the hard line rhetoric. The left may be puppets of America and 'Arafat, however, the right are puppets of the left, regardless of whether they realize it or not. The weak and defensive posture of the right says it all. As the typical rightist will tell you, "yes, certainly I am for peace, however, this is not peace, if it was... If 'Arafat would abort the PLO charter it would be another thing". Well, what happens when he abolishes the charter? What is so different about Likud autonomy and the current monstrosity? In the end, the weak and apologetic attitude of the right has contributed more to the confusion and present paralysis then all of the leftist propagandists.

For the record, peace is not the Jewish and Zionist priority. In fact, the present conception of peace is not a part of Judaism or Zionism. For Judaism, the establishment of a Jewish state and COMPLETE sovereignty over the land of Eretz Yisra'el is the goal and the priority. Shalom, comes from the root whole and complete. When we will be whole with our maker and ourselves we will achieve what they call peace. Retreat from Judaism and Eretz Yisra'el guarantees war and bloodshed. Unfortunately, even the leaders of the settlement movement peddle this fraud of peace and coexistence in one form or another to be ACCEPTED.

Time has come for the old way — the only way — the Jewish way. It is not important or relevant what others say and do. What is relevant is what the good Jews who understand and care are prepared to do. As long as the good Jews will be pre-occupied with the reaction of the "intellectuals", liberals and leftists, they will continue to be irrelevant to Jewish destiny and events in Israel. Rabbi Me'ir Kahane was the last right-wing religious leader who understood the power of the truth and idealism vs. the guilt ridden and defensive leaders who seek to be accepted and loved by people who will never ever accept them anyhow.

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Municipal Elections Reportedly Went 'Smoothly'

JN1107202395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Report by Dima Hamarinah from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jordanians cast their ballots today in the first nationwide municipal elections in the kingdom's history and the first vote since the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty took effect. Jordanians from all corners of the kingdom headed to the polls to elect a total of 231 mayors and municipal councils, whose members range from seven to 12 seats each. Twenty eight other councils and their mayors, were already elected last week by acclamation, bringing the total to 259. Jordanian officials said this one-day election process was significant not only because it was nationwide, but because it gave voters a chance to have more of a say in the make up of their municipal councils. [passage omitted]

While most voters seemed hopeful that a spotlight on local municipal politics would help bring the right person for the right job, others said tribal inclinations still got the better of people. [passage omitted]

While the majority of candidates appeared to be centrists, Islamists and leftists selected specific municipalities to show their force.

Political analysts said that on a national level, the election could stand as a test of strength to some opposition parties, who were against the peace process. But many voters said election campaigns appeared to be geared more towards local rather than national politics. [passage omitted]

The election process went smoothly in all polling stations that closed today. Government officials said extensive preparation for these elections over the past few months ensured that the elections were free and fair.

The government, through an official source, however, issued a statement this evening in response to claims by the Islamic Action Front Party that some of their candidates were harassed and that some of the voting procedures were faulty. These claims were issued in leaflets and statements distributed by the IAF today as well as in the last few days. In its statement, the government said it regrets the attitude of the Islamic group not only today but throughout the weeks leading up to the municipal elections. The government added that the IAF has been making irresponsible and false accusations the whole week in an attempt to incite trouble and suspicion and stressed that the election procedure was totally in accordance with the municipal elections law and that if there were any suspicion of wrongdoing, then the IAF should take whatever evidence it may have to the courts as allowed by the law.

Voting results are not expected until later tonight or early tomorrow morning when 259 municipal councils and mayors will take up their new posts.

Statement Rebuts IAF Protests

JN1107193895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

Jordan is witnessing an atmosphere of democratic joy, which is a continuation of its leader's choice to make the Jordanian democratic march a model for pluralism, freedom, popular participation, honesty, and the supremacy of the law. Today is a climax of this joy, when Jordanians headed for the ballot boxes to elect all municipal councils. Preparations for this day have been going on for months with accuracy, efficiency, and cooperation among all citizens and officials concerned so that the balloting process would be held in a smooth and neutral manner and in a climate of comprehensive participation under the very gaze of our people, the people of our nation, and the world through all local, Arab, and international media channels.

As we note our pride in this accomplishment, we regret statements by officials in the Islamic Action Front [IAF] during the past few weeks on registration for these elections. We also regret speeches and articles by them which accuse the government of interfering in favor of quarters that are competing with them even though they realize that every step linked to these elections is taken according to the law and that any differences on these elections are placed before the Jordanian judiciary.

Leaflets and letters from officials in the IAF itself have increased since this morning. They haphazardly leveled accusations and even went so far as to explain the gathering of students who were submitting applications and meeting with the concerned committee at the Officers Club in al-Zarqa' to join the military wing at Mu'tah University as military personnel who are gathering together to vote in favor of IAF competitors.

The municipalities law controls all issues, starting with objection to the voters' timetables, through the registration committee and the head of the First Instance Court, and ending with voting crimes that are referred to the law. However, some like to level accusations that lack evidence but hesitate or refrain from going to the court where accusations need to be clearly proven. They claim that they are withdrawing from the elections while

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fully realizing that the law prohibits withdrawals during the voting process.

While congratulating our dear people who exercised their democratic right in electing the local administration councils on the success of this blessed national march, it behoves all brother citizens in all their positions to stand united to entrench this march away from attempts to exercise hegemony and blackmail and from manifestations of hard feelings, convulsions, and leveling accusations without any evidence and issuing condemnations without a court ruling.

We call on our kinsfolk and the one family in this good homeland to entrench democracy, stand against any attempt to harm it, and condemn any misrepresentation of right and the truth and the begging of popularity at the expense of the homeland's reputation and its people's dignity.

"Our lord! Let not our hearts deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from thine own presence; for thou art the grantor of bounties without measure." [Koranic verse]

[Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 11 July carries a report on Jordan's local elections from the radio's Amman correspondent in which she says in part: "No major incidents were reported but the Islamists accused the authorities in al-Zarqa', the Islamic Movement's stronghold, of harassing the IAF supporters and arresting 11 of its supporters under the pretext of violating traffic laws. This came in a letter by the IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur to the prime minister and the minister of rural and municipal affairs. An official source confirmed these arrests which were made because these persons rented private cars and used school buses to bring in voters in violation of traffic laws. Before closing the ballot boxes, Yasir al-'Umari, the Islamic candidate for heading the al-Zarqa' municipal council, withdrew from elections. Later, the IAF list for the municipal council membership also withdrew in protest against what they described as the negative actions of the authorities."]

IAF Boycott Vote in al-Zarqa'

JN1207072995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jul pp 1, 7

[Report by Beatrix Immenkamp and Sa'idah al-Kilani, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Zarqa'—Municipal elections in Zarqa were marred by accusations and counter accusations between the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the government culminating in the IAF declaring that is was boycotting the elections in Jordan's second largest city.

Al-Zarqa' Governor Muslih al-Tarawnah countered that Islamists' withdrawal was illegal and that vote counting was scheduled to commence on time and the results announced accordingly. The IAF candidate for mayor, head of the Islamist Bloc and former mayor Shaykh Yasir 'Umari, was demanding an independent investigation into the election process from the beginning of voter registration up to and including the elections.

"The government regrets continuous statements by IAF leaders in the past few weeks accusing the government of interfering in the municipal elections on behalf of the IAF's opponents," a government statement said. "The IAF knows very well that each step in the election process is governed by law and any contest is referred to the judiciary," it said.

In the al-Zarqa' headquarters of the IAF, tempers were running high with Islamists claiming that thousands of soldiers clad in civilian clothes were brought into al-Zarqa' to cast their votes in favour of the National Bloc headed by Mustafa Fayad. Islamists said that the soldiers were not residents of al-Zarqa', but of cities as far away as Irbid and Karak. Eyewitnesses said they saw large numbers of apparently illiterate young men asking election officials to fill in their ballot slips with the names of the candidates of the National Bloc, portrayed by the IAF as being pro-government.

Other allegations put forward by leading IAF members assembled at the al-Zarqa' headquarters, among them Lower House Deputy Bassam al-'Umush, Shaykh 'Umari and Mamduh al-Muhaysin, a member of the IAF consultative council, included claims that individual voters had been allowed to cast more than one vote, that government officials were distributing ballot papers freely outside polling centers without references to voter lists, and that police had taken into custody 200 drivers of buses and cars who were transporting IAF supporters to the polling stations. The vehicles impounded bore posters of the Islamic Bloc candidates.

'Ali Abu-al-Sukkar, head of the IAF party in al-Zarqa', claimed that police arrested journalist Samih Ma'ayitah and photographer Majid al-Khudari, both from AL-SABIL, the Islamists' news weekly. Mr. al-Khudari was released while Mr. Ma'ayitah was still in custody when this paper went to press.

Telephones and fax-machines in the IAF's branch office and in the houses of several Islamist candidates were temporarily disconnected during the day, Islamists complained. According to Mr. Abu-al-Sukkar, telephone

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lines were cut from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mr. Abu-al-Sukkar said that the IAF had to send faxes from outside their offices.

Deputy al-'Umush told the Jordan Times that he had complained to Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir at nine in the morning that there were numerous violations in the al-Zarqa' elections, and that the government had to put an end to it. "The Arab Army is voting in al-Zarqa', not the people," Mr. al-'Umush said he told Sharif Zayd, who promised him to visit al-Zarqa' and inspect the situation. "He did, but it became worse afterwards," the deputy said. The meeting with the prime minister was also attended by Deputy 'Abdallah 'Akayilah, and Ishaq Farhan, secretary general of the IAF.

Governor al-Tarawnah explained to the Jordan Times that the large numbers of young men Islamists had observed in front of the Officers Club in al-Zarqa' were Tawjihi students applying for admission to the military wing of Mu'tah University.

According to Mr. al-Tarawnah, drivers were arrested for violating traffic rules and for transporting passengers without licenses to do so.

Explaining the Islamists' decision to withdraw from the elections at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, Mr. Abu-al-Sukkar said: "We insisted on exercising our right to vote, but the continuous violations that began with registration, the forging of seals and additional voter registration... it was simply overdone. There was no way out — we had to boycott the elections."

Polling stations in al-Zarqa' closed at 9 p.m. following an extension of opening time by two hours. Only 25,479 voters out of 49,443 who had registered turned out to cast their ballots.

Voting Extended, Lack of Quorum

JN1207060595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The results of the municipal elections in most governorates of the Kingdom were announced last night and this morning. The voting process will continue today in a number of the Greater Amman Municipality areas and the al-Rusayfah Municipality in al-Zarqa' Governorate for lack of quorum [less than 50 percent of the registered voters cast their votes]. [passage omitted]

It has been decided to extend the elections in 13 constituencies. Voting will continue in them from 0700-1700 today. Afterward, the results will be announced irrespective of the legal quorum. [passage omitted]

Centrists Poll Well

JN1207065695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Sa'idah al-Kilani, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Early returns from Jordan's first nation-wide municipal elections showed late Tuesday that centrists and tribal figures were headed for victories in most constituencies. Candidates fielded by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which withdrew from al-Zarqa' elections, won in Karak but lost in Amman. The elections also saw Jordanians electing their first woman mayor.

The turnout was very low in certain areas of the Kingdom while high in others. Elections for certain districts in the Greater Amman Municipality and the Municipality of al-Rusayfah were extended to Wednesday until the minimum of 51 per cent of voters turned out to vote,

Early results showed that centrist Hani Khuraysat won the mayorship in al-Salt, centrist Muhammad Simadi won in 'Ajlun and Iman Futaymat became the first woman mayor in Wahadinah. Ms. Futaymat, 27, won against four rivals.

Ahmad Mahadin, an Islamist, won the Karak mayorship. But Islamists lost in Tariq district in the Greater Amman Municipality. Islamist Hatim Bishtawi, lost the battle for mayorship of Tariq against Khalil Habarnah, who won 1,079 votes.

There were no Islamist candidates for the six other districts in Amman where voting ended on Tuesday. Voting for the remaining 13 districts will be held Wednesday. Only 20 seats are contested in the Greater Amman Municipality. The mayor and 20 other members will be appointd by the government. Three hundred and eight candidates contested the 14 mayoral and council seats in Amman Government. [passage omitted]

In al-Zarqa' and al-Rusayfah, the IAF, the largest party in the Kingdom, withdrew from the elections. It said in a statement issued at 8 p.m. from their headquarters in Amman that the withdrawal was limited to al-Zarqa', but issued another statement from al-Rusayfah two hours later announcing their withdrawal "because of the unfair elections."

During a tour of polling centres, Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir criticised "the withdrawal of some people" and described it as "illegal." He said those who want to contest the elections should go to court instead of withdrawing, which is against the law. [passage omitted]

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King Husayn: Seeks 'Warm Peace' With Israel

JN1207080495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—His Majesty King Husayn said Tuesday Jordan was seeking a warm peace between the peoples of the region and to have this peace translated into projects which will positively change the lives of people, particularly the Palestinian people.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Defence Studies College in London, King Husayn said the Middle East had suffered a lot because of the instability which prevailed for long as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the region's strategic location and natural resources as well as the influence of the cold war.

He said Jordan moved in the direction of signing a treaty with Israel only after the Palestinians signed a declaration of principles with Israel and recognised the Jewish state, adding that the Jordanian people had their say on the issue in a national conference.

The King said for lasting peace in the Middle East has to be just and balanced, emphasising that this was met by the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which restored to Jordan its full territorial and water rights.

Noting that Jordan has worked hard to resolve all outstanding issues in its negotiations with Israel before signing the treaty, he underlined that there are no foreign observers deployed on the Jordanian-Israeli border, the Jewish state's longest with any Arab state, and stressed that this highlights the two countries' keenness to ensuring the success of peace between them.

He said the parties involved in the peace process should work seriously at all levels to resolve thorny issues between them through "assistance by friends in the world."

King Husayn affirmed that Jordan seeks to achieve warm peace with Israel and to translate this peace into joint projects between the two countries, such as developing the Jordan Rift Valley, expanding the al-'Aqabah international airport and building a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal in addition to water and agricultural projects.

Expressing comfort over the support of the overwhelming majority of the Jordanian people of the peace treaty with Israel, King Husayn voiced hope that peace will positively transform the lives of all the peoples of the region, in particular the Palestinian people.

The King expressed relief over the progress of the democratisation process, political pluralism and respect for human rights in the Kingdom and added that despite the large number of political parties in Jordan "not all issues were discussed in Parliament."

He also voiced hope that the Armed Forces will be reorganised and modernised to continue to carry out its role in defending the country, the Constitution and peace.

Attending the lecture at the Royal Defence Studies College were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hamzah and Prince Talal as well as the Jordanian military attache in London.

House Urges Egypt, Sudan To Resolve Dispute

JN1207120595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives has appealed to the Egyptian and Sudanese leaders to work to contain their differences and resolve them through fraternal dialogue.

In a statement today, the House urged Arab parliamentarians to shoulder their responsibilities and play their pan-Arab role to examine the causes of the crisis between the two countries and do all that is possible to resolve it.

The statement adds that the House of Representatives is following up with interest and concern the developments of the current situation between the two sisterly countries, expressing regret for the deteriorating relations between the two countries.

Columnist Critical of U.S. Policy in North Iraq

JN1207110995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 30

[Column by Ya'qub Jabir from the "International Horizon": "Double Standards on Two Axes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has expressed full support for the recent Turkish military operation against the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] in northern Iraq. According to statements by the U.S. State Department spokesman, the U.S. Administration views the PKK as "a malicious terrorist organization that poses a serious threat to Turkish security." Therefore, the United States supports "all legitimate efforts being exerted by Turkey against PKK fighters."

We may not be concerned in this context with the considerations Washington took into account when it announced its support for the Turkish operation, in which 3,000 soldiers participated, and when it described the PKK as a malicious terrorist organization. What draws attention and causes surprise at the same time is that the United States has forgotten—or has pretended to

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have forgotten—that all Kurdish rebels share the same objectives; they seek independence from the countries in which they reside. If the PKK forces are terrorists, why are the Barzani and Talabani forces then not called terrorist although they seek to achieve the same goals?

Washington's position is characterized by contradiction and double standards on two axes. On the one hand, the United States, in cooperation with its European allies, is keeping an air base on the Turkish territories to protect the Iraqi Kurds from possible attacks by the Iraqi Army. At the same time, it backs the "legitimate" Turkish operations against Kurdish separatists. Why does Washington consider the Turkish operations legitimate, while any Iraqi effort to fight Kurdish separatist activity on its territories is prohibited and deemed punishable?

On another level, the victims of the Turkish military operation are mostly Kurdish civilians living in northern Iraq. The last Turkish military operation forced over 3,000 of them to flee their homes to distant places to avoid the Turkish aircraft and artillery. In other words, the victims whom Washington claims to be protecting from Iraq are the very same victims who are being pursued, displaced, and killed by Turkey, backed by the United States. Its position, therefore, has nothing to do with human considerations. Rather, it is a political position purely motivated by self-interest considerations, if not based on an incomprehensible hatred toward Iraq.

Had Iraq crossed the Turkish border to chase the Kurds, Washington would have raised a hue and cry, and would have intensified sanctions on Iraq to the point of depriving the Iraqi people of the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates. It is a double-standard policy in its ugliest forms, denoting an absence of human feelings to the point of disgust.

Paper on 'Secrets' of Iraqi-Israeli Contacts

JN1107133095 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim returned from a secret visit to Baghdad with a good impression which he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn about the response of the Iraqi leadership to the message he delivered from the Jordanian leadership. Al-Qasim did not expect this immediate reply to Jordan's clear desire to involve Iraq in the Middle East settlement process. Things moved fast when Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said he will launch a diplomatic campaign that seeks to at least lift the oil embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. His Majesty King Husayn had earlier secured French support for the lifting of the Iraq embargo if Iraq takes an active part in the peace process. Afterward, His Majesty King Husayn told international media that Iraq's participation in the peace process is an urgent and necessary requirement. His majesty noted that the Iraqi people's suffering must come to an end, since the Iraqi people are suffering from a real tragedy.

Are these developments a prelude to a breakthrough between Israel and Iraq? Will the series of contacts under way lead to Iraqi-Israeli meetings soon?

What are the secrets of these contacts and how did they begin?

The following report answers these questions.

The story began when Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin almost a week ago. Beilin is a figure who is most open to the Arab world. The meeting was prearranged with the Mauritanian information minister's knowledge, who was visiting Amman to begin immediate preparations for Israeli-Mauritanian relations and continue to coordinate toward this end.

Beilin told al-Kabariti that after the Syrian knot is undone, the Israeli Government would like to open a private channel of communications with the Iraqi Government. Beilin said this channel would enable the Iraqis to take part in the peace process in return for an Israeli pledge to put pressure on the U.S. Administration to soften its position on the oil embargo imposed on Iraq.

The Israeli official asked al-Kabariti to use the Jordanian umbrella to host and organize Iraqi-Israeli meetings, pointing out that the U.S. Administration knows about the Israeli request and has given Israel the go-ahead.

For his part, al-Kabariti showed reservations about the secret bilateral meetings, saying that Jordan does not prefer these meetings at this stage. Al-Kabariti stressed the importance of involving Iraq in the peace process, since this is in the interest of all parties. Al-Kabariti said Jordan is willing to hold preliminary talks with the Iraqis about this, telling Beilin that he personally must refer to higher quarters in Jordan and must sound out the Iraqis before making any move.

Beilin again recapitulated Israel's view of any Iraqi involvement in the peace process, by saying that focusing on secret meetings is meant primarily to spare the Iraqi leadership any embarrassment and to talk away from the media about transporting Iraq oil via Israeli ports.

The results of this Jordanian-Israeli meeting were quickly relayed to the palace, and then to the Iraqi leadership. The Iraqi response to the joint Israeli-Jordanian requests was, in principle, positive. The

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Iraqi leadership ended its veto on participating in the peace process. However, it asked Jordan to support it by presenting certain Iraqi conditions to participate in the peace process. Iraq wanted the Americans and the Europeans to give indisputable guarantees to lift the oil embargo and discuss an end to all the sanctions within an agreed-upon timetable before announcing any Iraqi participation in the peace process.

The Iraqi leadership gave the Jordanian Government "the green light" to start a twofold diplomatic crusade, which it started already, linking the ending of the Iraqi people's suffering to Iraq's participation in the peace process. It is clear that the Jordanian political statements in the past three weeks laid emphasis on these two points.

In a related development, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir met with some Iraqi officials in the French capital. French President Chirac pledged to King Husayn to exert efforts to arrange things with his European partners and the U.S. Administration. His Majesty King Husayn also discussed the same subject with the British officials and received assurances and positive promises.

Our sources confirm that in parallel with these contacts, Benyamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, met last week in the British capital with Iraqi academicians dispatched by the Iraqi leadership. The meeting took place in a London hotel with the knowledge of the Iraqi ambassador. Observers explained this step as an early Israeli breakthrough toward Iraq. Two days after this meeting, and also in London, an assistant to the Israeli foreign minister met with an Iraqi roving ambassador, who was described by our sources as being an assistant to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The Iraqi Government then resumed its contacts with the Jordanian Government, in its capacity as the mediator, to continue the contacts. It asked it to arrange a secret meeting with a high-level Iraqi envoy who, it was said, will agree with Jordan on future details and steps. The Iraqi high-level envoy had not yet arrived in Amman when this issue of AL-BILAD was going to the press. However, it is known that officials from the Israeli Prime Ministry are currently in Amman. The envoy, who, our sources expect, will be either Tariq 'Aziz or Taha Yasin Ramadan, is expected to arrive before next Thursday [13 July].

Energy Ministry To Store Qatari Gas for Reexport

JN1107130495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jul 95 p 1

[By Jawdat Nashkhu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has asserted that Jordan will store Qatari gas at the Port of al-'Aqabah as a prelude to reexporting it to Europe.

In reply to a question posed by AL-DUSTUR, he added that a U.S. company working in the field of extracting and transporting Qatari gas proposed to Jordan that it store liquefied Qatari gas. The gas will later be shipped in tankers from the Port of al-'Aqabah in exchange for storage fees. According to this agreement, Jordan's gas purchase requirements will be accorded priority.

The minister went on to say that Jordan accepted this offer with the understanding that it will be sold 500,000 tonnes of this gas, which will be stored at the Port of al-'Aqabah, in 1995. The gas will be used to operate the al-Husayn Thermal Power Station.

The minister said that the agreement provides for supplying Jordan with its gas requirements during the next few years.

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Dallul on 'Arab Silence' on Israeli Attacks

NC1107125795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said today that the recent escalation of violence in south Lebanon is a continuation of the deep-rooted Zionist policy of terrorism and aggression that began when the foreign entity was created in the middle of the Arab world.

He continued: The enemy forces have stepped up the level of their terrorism by bombarding peaceful villages with fragmentation bombs, killing innocent civilians, and causing extensive property damage. This is accompanied by a suspicious silence and shameful neglect by the same international organizations that exploit each simple incident to slander the Arab nation, using political epitaphs coined especially for the purpose. At the same time, they overlook the Israeli occupation forces' attempt to eliminate a whole nation.

Dallul added: This international bias and the imbalance created by the supremacy of one power raises many questions. The concerned international organizations have thus far failed to compel Israel to implement even a single provision of the UN Security Council resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from the territories that it occupied by force. These organizations will not pressure Israel to end its increasing aggression.

He said: What one fails to understand, justify, or even accept is the suspicious Arab silence over the attacks on Lebanon, keeping in mind that Lebanon is party to the Joint Arab Defense Pact and is linked historically and strategically to the Arab nation. This Arab desertion, as Israeli aggression is escalating and casting a dark shadow over the negotiations, is not acceptable. [passage omitted]

Significance of Nasrallah's Reelection Viewed

MM1107140795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Tariq Tarshishi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Lebanon's Hizballah has reelected its Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah for a new unspecified term in accordance with the party's bylaws, which do not specify the length of the secretary general's term, which can be short or long because the party can hold an election session if it deems that necessary in light of internal or general circumstances.

In addition to reelecting Nasrallah, the party also elected the members of its Political Bureau and Shura Council. Responsible leadership sources refused to give the names of these members but stressed that the names would be announced later on, but they did say that the party's deputies in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies were also elected as Political Bureau members. They are: Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, Muhammad Ra'd, Muhammad Fanish, 'Ali Taha, Muhammad al-Burjawi, Khadr Tulays, Muhammad Yaghi, and 'Ali 'Ammar.

The reelection of Nasrallah has raised many questions in Lebanese circles about Hizballah's future as well as the future of the situation in southern Lebanon. Such questions include: Is Nasrallah's reelection an indication of continued confrontation in the south and does it mean that progress in the peace process on the Syrian track, and accordingly the Lebanese track, is not yet possible which means keeping the military confrontation open indefinitely?

Hizballah's Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has refused to uphold that interpretation of Nasrallah's reelection. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday: The reelection of Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah confirms the same constant principles and the same political concept adopted by the party's previous congress. We do not see any change that would require amendment or initiation of a new debate on the attitude at the political level or at the level of the confrontation with Israel. He added: "We reaffirm that the resistance option is the sole option for the liberation of the territory.... On the internal political level, our course of action has not changed at all. The reelection of the secretary general is an expression of the grass roots' confidence in the leadership and its performance and a reflection of the party's internal and operational stability."

On the future of the situation in the south, Shaykh Qasim said: "We believe that there is Israeli 'time-wasting' until the end of the U.S. and Israeli elections, and there is no willingness to make any serious concessions. In other words, the chances of achieving a settlement later on or not achieving a settlement are, in our view, equal. Developments will determine which option will outweigh the other."

On the recent Syrian talks in Tehran, he said that the timing of the Syrian-Iranian meeting was a wisely preconceived timing by the Syrians and the Iranians, for the Syrians to say that they are adhering to their strategic relations with Iran and for Iran to say that it supports Syria in its steps against Israeli pressure and in its support for the resistance.

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Ross Conveys Message From Clinton to al-Asad

JN1107183295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the Middle East peace process, and Mark Parris, the U.S. President's special assistant and director of Near East and South Asia Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, at the People's Palace at 1200 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington.

Mr. Ross conveyed to the president a message from President Bill Clinton dealing with the peace process. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the topics under discussion in the current talks, the efforts being exerted, and the requirements for advancing the peace process.

Ambassador Views Ross' Tour

NC1107195995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Interview with Ambassador to Iran Ahmad al-Hasan by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Dennis Ross has spoken of the possibility of making progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. What is your comment on this U.S. optimism?

[Al-Hasan] During every tour of the region, U.S. envoys always try to show hope for the negotiations. This is especially true because Syria sees that Israel is the one who is always hampering the negotiations. Syria is committed to a just and comprehensive peace and regards peace as one of its strategic options, while Israel always tries to resort to maneuvering, deception, and procrastination to avoid commitments to international legitimacy and, in turn, to implementing the UN resolutions.

Therefore, it is in the U.S. sponsor's interest when he tours the region to make statements creating hope for the people who have begun to lose hope in the peace process.

[Correspondent] Is Dennis Ross bringing new ideas capable of removing the obstacles that the Zionist state creating for any genuine peace process?

[Al-Hasan] As far as the Washington meetings are concerned, we regarded them as talks, because there is a difference between talks and negotiations, in that these talks are a prelude to the resumption of negotiations between the two sides.

Through these talks we sought to discover how sincere the Israeli side is its pledges after we reached agreement with the Americans late in May on a framework of understanding. This understanding was to be considered a basis on which the Syrian and Israeli negotiators would build in Washington regarding security arrangements. We clarified at the Washington talks that Israel was still using the same method it used at the negotiations which broke down more than a year and a half ago—or rather one year and three or four months ago.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration may now be urging the two sides to abide by the framework of understanding it reached with both sides in late May. The Washington talks between the chiefs of staff of both countries were held on the basis of that understanding. I have no details on the issue, but the U.S. sponsor's efforts to prompt the two sides to resume the talks are continuing.

I said "talks" not "negotiations," because these talks are a test of the Israeli side's seriousness and the credibility of its commitment to the peace process.

Radio on Early-Warning Stations

JN1107140195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Administration envoy Dennis Ross held lengthy talks in Israel. He is in Damascus today for the same purpose. As is known, Washington military talks that were held on the level of the [Syrian and Israeli] chiefs of staff revealed a great disparity in positions on the ways of implementing security arrangements. These arrangements have various forms and goals. These goals include assuring every party about the intentions of the other party and warding off any incident or friction between the troops of the two parties — incidents which would escalate tension and aggravate the situation.

Dennis Ross' mission is part of a U.S. endeavor to bring closer the positions of the two parties and to work out acceptable arrangements that would pave the way for discussing major issues, like the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the establishment of peace. The fact is that Israel attaches great importance to security arrangements. Syria has agreed to discussing this issue provided that these arrangements should be evenhanded [muta'adilah], equal [mutasawiyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] and provided that they will not violate Syria's sovereignty on its land and resources and

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that they will keep no vestige of the Israeli occupation. Thus Syria has rejected the Israeli proposal of setting up early-warning stations on its territory because these stations are a violation of Syria's sovereignty for which Syria has always announced its rejection.

Restoring all land down to the last and tiniest part of it is a question that cannot be subject to bargaining. Therefore, Syria rejects any formula for the presence of early-warning stations on the Syrian territory [Wa bittali, fahiya tarfud ayyata sighatin li wujudi mahattat indharin 'ala al-ard al-suriyah] because peace with Syria hinges on Israel's full withdrawal back to 4 June 1967 lines. Withdrawal is the basis and security arrangements succeed withdrawal. Thus far, Israel has not publicly announced its intention to withdraw back to the former June lines. It has left this fundamental issue subject to contradictory statements. Over the past days, Israel's prime minister went as far as saying that there is no relationship between security arrangements and withdrawal from the Golan, while there is an integral relationship between the two.

Even if Syria and Israel reached an agreement on these arrangements, such an agreement will remain mere ink on paper if it is not coupled with an agreement on rapid withdrawal back to the 4 June lines. It is known that Israel's prime minister links withdrawal with what he calls normalization of relations. He talks about limited withdrawal and about a test period of Syria's intentions. All these ideas are rejected in part and parcel. Syria has rejected and continues to reject partial, phased settlements and insists on a full, comprehensive, and rapid withdrawal. There can be no talk about the requirements of peace before the Golan is restored to its people.

Israel is the aggressor party, it is the party that occupies Syria's land, and it should convince the Syrians of the genuineness of its peace intentions. Inevitably, the yardstick for Israel's credibility is withdrawal from the Golan and cessation of hostilities against Lebanon in preparation for a similar withdrawal from southern Lebanon, returning of lands to their owners, and respect for Security Council Resolutions and the principles and charters of the international community.

Syria has never defied the Security Council and it has never violated international law, whereas Israel has been doing this since its inception. Therefore, it should prove the contrary through full compliance with the principles of right and justice.

Newspapers: Israel Must Be 'More Daring'

JN1207074595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "The Clear Stand," TISHRIN stresses that peace will remain Syria's strategic option and that Syria will continue its efforts to arrive at a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper says: For peace to be achieved, Israel must accept, and abide by total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and, consequently, accept balanced [mutawazinah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides.

TISHRIN notes that Syria regularly affirms its keenness to boost the peace process and meet all its conditions and dues. Syria, at the same time, refuses any encroachement on one iota of its rights or to bargain over an inch of its territory.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria's position on the peace process is clear and undoubtable. It is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles and laws of justice and right. This is because no party should be allowed to guarantee its security at the expense of the other party, and because the elements and basic pillars of the peace process should not be target of extortion and bargaining.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: As it shows a readiness to boost the peace process, Syria has no doubt that its rights are invulnerable to relinquishment and bargaining. This is because any peace that is not based on right will be a shaky and deteriorating peace. Also in the absence of the rights, or some of them, peace will not be in the interest of all the parties. The right which Syria cannot relinquish is the right to regain the entire Golan Heights and end the occupation.

In an editorial entitled "Peace Remains the Goal and Objective," AL-BA'TH says: The issue of peace is occupying a major part of the international efforts in general, and the U.S. efforts in particular. Syria's opinions and positions meet with these efforts to activate and sustain them, and to help them achieve a successful conclusion.

AL-BA'TH adds: The U.S. coordinator has voiced optimism. In the meantime, news reports indicate that only a change in the Israeli position will ensure a breakthrough in the negotiations process.

AL-BA'TH says the Israeli Government must be more daring in word and deed to move to a stage where peace can become within reach. Now that Syria has made

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peace a goal and an objective, the Israelis must meet the basic condition of peace; that is, exchanging land for peace and abandoning the policy of aggression for the benefit of the region and its stability.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Because the U.S. sponsorship of the peace process represents the basic pillar for the attempts to activate the negotiations process, the U.S. role can be more effective if it utters the plain truth; that exchanging land for peace is more important than Israel's attempts to open doors that will lead to roads other than the roads of peace.

In an article under the headline "The Required Step," AL-THAWRAH says: Mistaken is he who thinks that the achievement of peace in the region is such a big problem or an impossible equation, although one must stress that the Arab-Israeli conflict is multifaceted, has several consequences, and produced several historical, psychological, and real results. The long march of peace, which has not achieved results that correspond to the efforts exerted, has clarified the bases and conditions of peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When we say that peace is not an impossible thing to achieve, this means that Israel is now realizing the facts, and acknowledging them at times, although it is not acting accordingly.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that a just and comprehensive peace means the return of all the territory and rights to their owners, and consequently, security and tranquility to all parties on equal footing. When Israel abandons its positions, which have only complicated the situation, it is then possible to talk about a new phase in which the peace process can proceed strongly toward its objectives.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Syria, which seeks to achieve tangible results that will make peace a reality, continues to underline its position; that peace starts with ending occupation, restoring all rights, and implementing the principles of justice ['adl], equality [musawah], balance [tawazun], and equitability [takafu'] in the security arrangements without trying to circumvent their substance or make false interpretations.

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Afghanistan

Taleban Demands Rabbani's Resignation Before Talks

LD1107150495 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban Council issued a resolution which says that it will not hold talks with [President Borhanoddin] Rabbani until he resigns. The Council issued a fatwa [words indistinct].

A spokesman of the Taleban told reporters that Rabbani was used by the communists — all the agreements concluded with Russia and India were done through [former president] Najib and Rabbani is strongly influenced by Najib and other communists.

The spokesman added that Rabbani committed treason against the one and a half million martyrs who lost their lives in the struggle to establish an Islamic regime.

The Taleban Council also asked the Islamic countries and the United Nations to formally recognize the Taleban Council rather than Rabbani's regime.

Commentary Urges Forces To Unite Against Rabbani

LD1107205795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Need for a powerful alliance against the coalition regime; now we draw your attention to a commentary by a Radio Message of Freedom commentator. [passage omitted]

[Announcer continues] There is no ambiguity in the fact that no time should be wasted talking to the coalition regime. But there is a serious need for the formation of an alliance of the Higher Coordination Council, all mojahedin groups, the Taleban movement, and other effective forces. They should review their policies and adopt the policy of exerting force for the overthrow of the coalition administration and act upon it. [passage omitted]

The experience has shown that nothing could be achieved individually, therefore jihadi organizations, including the Taleban, must take a common stance against the Rabbani regime and come together in a powerful alliance. This way it will be easier for them to regain their lost dignity. If the jihadi organizations remain divided, we believe they will lose any influence on the Afghan problem. It is a matter of great shame that the Afghans are looking to others for the solution of their problems instead of the mojahedin, and they are expecting a miracle from a person who had no part in the jihad, even he was hostile to it.

We are the cause of the current tragedy and we should not ignore this fact. To compensate for our sins, all anti-Rabbani forces should come together and take action to eliminate this calamity that has blatantly trampled upon our Islamic aspirations. Past experience has proved that fighting the Rabbani administration individually is fruitless. It was Hezb-e Eslami-ye that blocked the coalition regime by devising various tactics and did not let it make any political or military gains. But when Hezb-e Eslami-ye withdrew, no party could stand against the coalition government. If the jihadi organizations wish their and the goals of jihad survival, they will take the initiative in their hands by uniting.

Inviting peace delegations is an opportunistic act by the coalition regime. When it has the strength to fight, the coalition regime resorts to guns. In the past they breached agreements before the ink dried on the paper and started fighting.

Our aim of this explanation is that the coalition government resorts to every tactic and uses every illegitimate weapon to [words indistinct]. It is the mission of all jihadi organizations to reorganize the nation that is experienced in war and jihad, and to prepare it for a general uprising to decide its Islamic fate. In the opinion of the observers this is an experienced short path provided all jihadi organizations cordially unite and take a united stance against the coalition.

India

Minister Views U.S. Arms Supply to Pakistan

BK1207081795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has made it clear to the Clinton Administration that supply of F-16 aircraft and other military equipment to Pakistan will result in a regional imbalance and promote an arms race, which is not desirable. New Delhi has, however, no objection to Washington giving any amount of economic aid to that country for its development. The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said this at a meeting of the consultative committee of members of parliament at his ministry in New Delhi today.

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Dailies View Pakistan's Receipt of PRC Missiles

Editorial on U.S. Inaction

BK1207055295 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 8 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The United States Going Into Disarray"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Pakistan Air Force base in Sargodha just a few miles from Indian Punjab's international border, Pakistan has about two-and-a-half dozen M-11 missiles hidden inside missile silos. This is the information the U.S. intelligence has received from a variety of sources. However, it appears as though the U.S. Administration does not want to acknowledge any thing bad about China or Pakistan. This very week, the daily, Washington Post, published a confirmed news report with revealing photographs —again attributed to U.S. intelligence agencies — giving details about how the Sargodha air base had been receiving various M-11 missile components. However, it appears that even this confirmed report received through its own intelligence agencies is not an enough evidence for the U.S. Administration. Does the U.S. Administration not rely on the information gathered by its own intelligence agencies or do they just wants to use parts of this conveniently culled information to suit its own foreign policy?

Observers believe that should the United States accept these reports as true, it would be forced to again enforce the missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on China and Pakistan. Under the MTCR, no country can export or import a missile with a strike range of more than 300 kms. Since China accepted the MTCR two years ago, it cannot violate its provisions now. Both China and Pakistan, in case of violations, would be subjected to a variety of economic and technological sanctions. In 1992, the U.S. imposed similar sanctions on China and Pakistan for two years when such charges were levelled against them, resulting in U.S. cancelling its technology export deal with China worth about a billion dollars. If sanctions are again imposed on China, it would cause further tension in their already strained ties, which the U.S. wants to avoid at every cost. Owing to severe pressure from U.S. firms, the U.S. Administration has lifted sanctions on China's promise not to supply Pakistan with various M-11 missile components. However, U.S. sources themselves have revealed that China continues do so. Last year, China came up with an explanation that it was not violating MTCR rules because the missile supplied to Pakistan only had a strike range of 297 kms i.e. just three kms less than the prohibited range. What a massive mockery of the MTCR ! Last year, during his China visit, Pakistan President Leghari himself proudly declared that to counter the threat from the Indian 'Prithvi' missile he was getting these missiles from China. So, why should the United States require more proof when China and Pakistan themselves have admitted to the charges made against them?

Daily on U.S.-Pakistan Ties

BK0907132295 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jul 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Missile Transfers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent report in the Washington Post about Pakistan storing M-11 missiles received from China in 1992 at Sargodha may come as news to an American public which is not adequately conversant with South Asia but not to informed Indians or Pakistanis. Former Pakistani officials who have held responsible posts in foreign and defence affairs have, in the past, admitted that the missiles had been received but were still in crates. When the U.S. administration imposed sanctions for the second time on Pakistan and China for missile transfers, they must have been aware that Pakistan was in possession of the Chinese missiles. The Pakistani press has been pleading that the U.S. should treat India's indigenous Prithvi on a par with the Chinese M-11 missiles supplied to Pakistan, thereby conceding that Pakistan indeed has them. The M-11 missiles arrived in Pakistan long before India completed the Prithvi's user trials. India's missile development and likely deployment were responses to an international situation where missiles were freely available even to the Afghan mojahedin and it was clear that Pakistan which supported the guerrillas would not fail to acquire missiles. The largest number of missiles fired so far have been in the Iran-Iraq war and in Afghanistan all in India's neighbourhood, with the major missile suppliers, China and North Korea being in Asia and neither of which are members of the missile technology regime.

The Chinese CSS-2 missiles in Saudi Arabia have ranges covering India, and the U.S. has yet to explain their cost-effective use if they are not combined with nuclear warheads. Saudi Arabia's financing of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme is also no secret. China's missile supply to Saudi Arabia, its transfer of missiles to Iran and Pakistan, its help to Pakistan on nuclear weapon technology and the U.S. inability to influence either China or Pakistan, as demonstrated by the second round of U.S. sanctions on these two countries, are now established facts. Given this situation, the U.S. now finds itself open to blackmail by Pakistan. By unpacking the M-11 missiles, Pakistan will force the U.S. law to be applied and invoke another round of sanctions, this time perhaps more prolonged against it as well as China.

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It cannot do Pakistan any additional damage since the Pressler amendment is already in force, but it would hurt commercial relations with Beijing. The latter is something Mr Bill Clinton, who wants to be remembered as the developer of markets for the U.S., wants to avoid. The U.S. obsession with retaining Pakistan as an ally to facilitate its policy of containment of Iran has led the U.S. administration to overlook the policy of transparency that it preaches to others on the issue of nuclear and missile policies employed by Islamabad.

Daily Urges National Nuclear, Missile Programs

BK0907140395 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 6 Jul 95 p 11

["In Focus" by G. Balachandran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has sold medium-range M-11 missiles to Pakistan. This has got some people here in the government worried. They want India to ask the US to impose sanctions on China under the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime].

Closer scrutiny, however, suggests that this could really be no more than an inter-agency squabble for which the US bureaucracy is famous and in which the media is used as a ring. Little wonder then that both the NEW YORK TIMES and WASHIGTON POST have carried summaries of alleged CIA briefings and reports that show transfer of missiles from China to Pakistan. The US administration has denied that there is conclusive proof of such transfers. All this is routine.

In 1991 too, there were reports of missile transfers to Pakistan. The US imposed sanctions on both China and Pakistan under the Missile Technology Control Regime, but removed those on China soon after. There is no chance of the US risking further antagonism from China by imposing more sanctions. Therefore, as reported, if the Indian govermnent, or a section of it, is hoping that the US will take such an action they are living in fool's paradise.

It is true that such transfers have an effect on Indian security. They are serious developments to which any prudent and security- conscious government must pay due attention. However, it is the Indian, not the US government, which needs to act on the issue. But all recent policies and actions of the present government have been in the opposite direction. It has, under pressure from the US, abandoned or at best postponed the induction of Prithvi, the Indian battlefield missile. It has closed down the Agni, the intermediate range ballistic missile programme and there are no long-range plans to build upon the competence developed as a result of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme [IGMDP]. It is not often realised that once a programme, such as the missile programme, slows down or its personnel disbanded, it is difficult to replace it with another team. In case of DRDO [Defense Research and development Organization], after the Devil [as published] programme, an attempt to reverse engineer/ develop a SAM, was abandoned in the early 1970s, it took more than a decade to develop an effective missile programme team, known as the IGMDP team.

The development of missiles take time, effort and money. Testing is an essential element of such a programme, as demonstrated by the recent Chinese testing of a solid propellant missile. For reasons not entirely clear, the Agni programme was stopped after a couple of tests. Thus, we have a paradoxical situation wherein the Indian government puts a brake on the indigenous missile programme under US pressure, while at the same time the US acquiesces with transfers of missiles and missile technology by China to Pakistan, India's major security concern.

Nuclear weapons and missiles go hand in hand. Pakistan has a development and acquisition programme for both nuclear weapons and missiles. India, on the other hand, has put its nuclear programme on a limbo and the missile programme on hold. It is not difficult to visualise the dangers of such an inactive response to a potentially explosive situation. The only course of action for the Indian government is to declare its intention to rethink its nuclear policy, sanction an extensive missile development programme and downgrade its participation in the various nuclear disarmament conferences, such as the fissile material cutoff convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Unless it moves ahead with clear national priorities, it will find itself outflanked and manoeuvred by the US, China and Pakistan

Rao Wants Kashmir Elections 'Soon as Possible'

BK1207061895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has expressed keenness to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir as soon as possible. Mr. Narasimha Rao was addressing a delegation of Youth Congress-I leaders from Jammu and Kashmir at his residence yesterday. He urged them to form district and bloc level watchdog committees to monitor various development schemes in the state. He said such committees should prepare reports pointing out the lapses in implementation of the schemes. The prime minister also called upon them to start a mass contact program, particularly in the trouble torn areas to instill confidence among the people.

The central government has released 21 crore rupees for rural employment oriented schemes in Jammu and

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Kashmir. The union minister of state for rural areas and employment, Mr. Uttambhai Patel, handed over the release order to the adviser to the governor, Mr. B.K. Goswamy, in Srinagar yesterday. He said 10 crore rupees have been released for the employment assistance scheme which is being implemented in 80 blocs or 13 districts. The rest of the amount is for IRDP [Integrated Rural Development Program] and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [employment scheme].

Article Opposes U.S. Involvement in Kashmir

BK1207054195 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 6 Jul 95 p 8

[Article by Nikhil Charkravarty: "We Can Let U.S. Intervene in Kashmir Only at Our Peril"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The American ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner's visit to Kashmir has raised many eyebrows in New Delhi. The ambassador's four-day itinerary with prolonged talks with political leaders, at a time when the situation in Kashmir is supposed to be rather uncertain, has become the subject of fairly widespread comments.

This is but natural since very few ambassadors have taken the trouble of visiting the Valley. Of late, there have been some flying visits by politicians and envoys from some of the Western countries and recently the Government even signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the International Red Cross ensuring US access to the trouble-tossed Valley. All these moves have been largely because of the outcry in the West about the alleged violation of human rights in the running battle between the security forces and the militants, and the Government's anxiety to pacify Western opinion at a time when its main preoccupation has been to lure Western business into this country.

Ambassador Wisner did not go on a sightseeing tour. He openly discussed the range of the US Administration's interest in Kashmir as a crisis-spot in world politics. It is worth noting that the American ambassador undertook this visit immediately after the Halifax Summit of the G-7, which, in its declaration, referred to Kashmir as an item of concern—the first time it has been lifted to the category of international concern at the highest level. As the leader of the G-7, it is not unexpected that the US should be deeply interested in the affairs of Kashmir, and Mr Wisner is only carrying out the implications of that concern.

Protocol wise, Mr Wisner has been correct. He notified his visit to the concerned authorities, and all that he has uttered during his visit to the Valley does not conflict with the Government's stand on the sensitive issues concerning the opening of the political process via the election, as the Prime Minister himself has officially announced. In fact, Mr Wisner is found to have pleaded with the Hurriyat and other leaders about the need for holding the election as a means to get out of the present stalemate.

It is Mr Wisner's pleading with the Kashmiri leaders about the imperative of participating in the election which has come across as extraordinary. On his own, he has also volunteered that his Government is not offering to mediate between the parties involved in Kashmir unless it is asked for by them all. The fact that Mr Wisner has tried to canvass for the election process under the Constitution of India implies that the US now acknowledges, however belatedly, the finality of Kashmir's accession to India.

A tactical shift

Two years ago, Ms Robin Raphel of the US State Department had even questioned the validity of Kashmir's accession to India. That was in keeping with the US stand throughout. One has just to recall that as early as 1953, Adlai Stevenson met Sheikh Abdullah and tried to sell the idea of independence for Kashmir. And throughout the fifties, the US was at the forefront in the Security Council backing Pakistan against India over Kashmir while the Soviet veto saved the situation for India every time. After the Chinese aggression on the Indian frontier in 1962, the US took the initiative for a fresh round of talks on Kashmir and in that case too, the US stand amounted to questioning Kashmir's accession to India, suggesting the vivisection of the Valley.

Quite a long way, therefore, the US Administration has had to travel to reach the point where ambassador Wisner has advised the Kashmiri leaders to participate in the election under the Indian Constitution. Incidentally, the large- scale supply of arms which has for the last four years helped the militants to augment their firepower came via Pakistan from stocks sent by the U.S., originally meant for the Afghan Mujahideens to fight the Soviet forces, but quite a lot of it later found its way to a whole host of desperadoes for the entire area from Karachi to Kashmir. It is therefore refreshing to find the US ambassador advising the Kashmiri militants to participate in the election after all the havoc that the American supply of deadly arms has played in the region.

The only nagging question is: Why has the US shifted its ground to sell the election jingle to the militants in Kashmir? Does it think that there is no other way to poke its nose into the Kashmir tangle? One need not be surprised if it is banking on the calculation that the election will unleash large-scale violence, and at that

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stage, it can offer its helping hand for the conducting of the poll.

There is also the other possibility. In the new international environment after the Cold War, commerce and investment have become more important than military alliances, and as such, the US interest in political intervention in India has to grow as it offers a huge market. Hence the tactical shift through a new form of political intervention. Mr Wisner has to understand that it will take a long time for Indian misgivings about US policy on Kashmir to be dispelled, taking into account its past record.

Open talks with Pakistan

Precisely because of this rather murky background of the US role in Kashmir, a very large section of the public—including a good part of his own party—wonder why the Narasimha Rao Government has extended this opportunity for Mr Wisner to dabble in electoral politics in Kashmir. And quite a few may wonder if the election idea itself is not imported from Washington, since the native wisdom says that this venture may turn out to be a risky gamble. And if the Government hopes to pull it through because of the blessings from Mr Wisner and his Govermnent, then the question arises: Are we going to have an election in Kashmir with clearance from the US?

Leaving aside these questions about ambassador Wisner's foray into Kashmir politics, it is refreshing to find the Minister of State, Mr Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, who is supposed to reflect the Prime Minister's view, announce in Kashmir that the Government is prepared to talk to anybody without any condition. Undoubtedly a welcome move, and it is hoped that this will be followed up and no effort will be spared to talk to the responsive elements among the militants, because that alone can ensure the opening of the political process. As, for the holding of election, this will require elaborate preparation—not merely administrative but political as well. For one thing, the Govermnent has to decide whether its promised "political package" should be announced before the proposed election, or after the poll as the culmination of negotiations with the newly-elected Government. The Government also has to sensitise all political parties including its own about the urgency of a political settlement in Kashmir.

Finally, the Prime Minister has to make the utmost effort to open talks with Pakistan, because Pakistan's goodwill is necessary to ensure a viable settlement in Kashmir. In all this, our Government has to move on its own and appear to be doing so to the public. The image of being under superpower guardianship helps no country claiming to be independent. This proved disastrous for Pakistan, it will be more so for India despite all the friendly protestations of Mr Frank Wisner.

Daily Assails UK Labor Party on Kashmir Stance

BK0907130995 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Laboured Point"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the Britain's Labour Party have been this century's Rip Van Winkle, and may be scarcely aware that the world has moved very far from what they saw it to be when they went to sleep. Among such archaic pieces will be Roy Hattersley, a former deputy leader of the party, who chose to share a platform in London with Pakistan's Foreign Minister to pledge his support for a plebiscite in Kashmir. But he is in no singular eminence. Another senior Labour MP, Gerald Kaufman, wants to strengthen the hands of the party leadership to adopt a formal resolution on Kashmir at a party conference. If the Labour Party is unable to administer to India a black eye all by itself, it can depend upon the fearsome support of Liberal Democratic MP, Ms Liz Lynne, who would impose trade sanctions against India. How they wish India would shiver at such threats. This country could ignore such Labour tantrums but for the possibility that the party could form government after the next general election, and New Delhi would have to restructure its relations with Britain. British voters of Pakistani origin may be in a position to decide the fate of a few MPs in the United Kingdom. But if that impels the Labour Party to take sides over Kashmir, India will have to seriously assess that party and what business it can do with Britain under a Labour Government.

Students of modern history do not have to strain themselves to unearth evidence to prove how enthusiastically Britain under a Labour Government had sided with Pakistan over the Kashmir dispute— in the subcontinent, and at the United Nations where the UK and the United States joined hands to transform a complainant India into an accused India. The Hattersleys and Kaufmans may not have much patience to recall that Kashmir's accession to India took place under the same kind of instrument of accession that decided the future of 500-odd princely States in British India under a law passed by the House of Commons.

If the Labour Party and its members believe that Kashmir today is what it was 50 years ago, and that plebiscite and self-determination is going to solve the problems there instead of complicating them further, they have a better test case at hand. When it is inclined to wet its towel with tears shed over the oppressed peoples in other lands, the Labour Party can do no better than live

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up to the adage: charity begins at home. Why should it not campaign for self- determination in Northern Ireland? Why should Sinn Fein and Gerry Adams have to look up to the US to pressure an unwilling British government to attempt what at best would be a fragile peace in Dublin? The Labour Party's magnanimity over Kashmir could prove ideologically infectious. If it is installed in 10 Downing Street, it may discover that Northern Ireland and Britain's non-White immigrants are receiving support from unexpected quarters. The new generation Labour Party may feel its biases against India are in line with a traditionalist Britain (not forgetting Krishna Menon). But in a shrinking world, a laboured stance could destroy political goodwill more easily than build a congenial atmosphere for doing business.

Official, Press View Release of Burmese Dissident

Spokesman Welcomes Release

BK1007163095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India, welcoming the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has expressed satisfaction at the step taken by the State Law and order Restoration Council of Myanmar [Burma] in this direction. In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India lauded Miss Suu Kyi's courage and commitment to values espoused by leaders like Mahatama Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Aung San.

Commentary Views 'Victory'

BK1107071295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 95

[Commentary By S.D. Muni of Jawaharlal Nehru University]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Myanmarese [Burmese] democratic leader, Aung San Suu Kyi's, unconditional release after six years of house arrest with no charges and no trial is a victory not only to the democratic movement in Myanmar [Burma], but also for her personal courage of conviction. She had declined the Myanmarese military junta's offer for conditional release last year when she was asked to leave Myanmar after being set free.

The release of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner has come somewhat unexpectedly. Among the factors that seem to have contributed to her release, the sustained international pressure has been well known. Not only a number of Nobel laureates had joined company to press for her release, but the UN secretary general, a number of world governments including that of India, and influential members of the U.S. Congress had been pleading with the military junta to release her. The fact that the Myanmarese has decided to respond to these pressures now and not earlier may be due to a calculated reassessment of its strategy toward the democracy movement. The junta's success in dealing with the small ethnic insurgent groups and its victory over the Karen National Union in March this year convinced it that the strength of the democracy movement has been eroded and it can now take a relaxed view of the democratic challenge. Adoption of a relaxed view toward the democracy movement has also been considered politically and economically prudent because this is what many of Myanmar's foreign investors and western supporters prefer. Continuing internal conflict, suppression of democratic forces and human rights violations in Myanmar were generating pressure on most of these investors and supporters in their respective domestic context. By releasing Suu Kyi, the military junta can silence its international critics, please its well-wishers and benefactors and strengthen its case for national reconciliation on the terms acceptable to it.

There is a special reason for India to rejoice in Aung San Suu Kyi's release. She not only studied in New Delhi, but has also imbued ideals of Mahatama Gandhi and Nehru in her democratic commitment and unyielding peaceful struggle. India has also bestowed the Nehru award for international understanding for 1993 on her. Suu Kyi's release eases the burden of conscience on India's policy of cooperating with the Yangon [Rangoon) regime which was initiated in 1993 to protect its vital security and economic interests.

Iran

Rafsanjani Views U.S., Other Issues

LD1107164695 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has criticized Washington's performance vis-a-vis Tehran and said that under the present circumstances it is felt that the U.S. President is to some extent influenced by the Zionists.

President Rafsanjani, recently interviewed by the MIDDLE EAST INSIGHT [MEI], remarked that generally speaking, from the very beginning of the revolution, "American administrations have shown hostility towards the revolution. They have never shown good intentions."

As for the U.S. proposal on engaging in a dialogue with the Iranian authorities, the president stressed: "Unfortunately, because of the behaivor of the United States, there is not much trust in this country for the

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United States. It may be presumed in Iran that the United States has ulterior motives for this proposal."

He further stated, "The United States should, for once at least, prove its good intentions, so the road can be paved. I told them, for example, that as a show of goodwill, they can free our assets that have been illegally frozen in the United States."

Referring to the trade embargo of the U.S. President against Iran, President Rafsanjani told MEI, "It is doomed to fail, the United States cannot do much against us."

"What can possibly happen? They said they should not buy our oil, we can shift and sell to others. If they ban trade with us, it is the United States that is going to lose. The things that we are used to buy from the United States we'll shift to other countries. We have been the target of such bans — even worse and more severe bans — at a time when we had a war. These bans have had no impact on our economy and they will not affect this country," stressed the president.

Asked on the fatwa (religious verdict) of the late Imam Khomeini against the apostate author of the SATANIC VERSES, Salman Rushdie, the president stated: "The issue is that the writer has insulted the prophet of Islam and the fatwa of all religious scholars in this case is the capital punishment for such a person. We have this in our religious texts. Even if Imam Khomeini had not issued the same fatwa, we had the same verdict in our religious books that go as far back as 1,000 years."

"I think this whole affair is created by the arrogant powers in order to use it as a time bomb, in case it is needed for the relations between Iran and the west," argued President Rafsanjani.

As for the issue of human rights in Iran, the president said, "Human rights is used as an instrument to exert pressure and also to achieve some goals that particularly the United States pursues. For example, you see in the U.S. an incident takes place, the mass killing of the Davidian sect, the followers of David Koresh, but very soon without wasting much time, they just stifle the matter as if nothing has happened. But if a small incident takes place in Iran, it is blown way out of proportion and is publicized for years.

"The scene of mass killing of that sect was very tragic," said the president, adding "I heard on BBC yesterday that in the U.S. the prisoners who are disproportionally black are moved around and taken to work with chains on their feet. This is very tragic. Nothing like that happens in Iran. In Iran prisoners visit with their families, they are treated with dignity and they work for which they are paid."

Asked on the so-called Middle East peace talks, the president said: "We do not see any good intention on the part of Israel in these talks, and we do not see any good intention on the part of the United States, either. We do not see the United States as a neutral mediator in this case. And the reasons have shown themselves in the occupation of the new lands by the Israelis in Jerusalem. And the U.S. instead of giving a reward to the Arab countries, you saw what happened at the UN Security Council, it vetoed the resolution (condemning Israeli land seizures in Jerusalem) and trampled upon the vote of 14 members of the Council in favor of Israel. We ask them what have you done for four million Palestinian refugees? What will their destiny be as a result of this peace plan? Is this peace practical and durable when there still exist 4 million refugees?" argued the president.

"Practically speaking we do not take any action against the peace plan. When we see the whole process is unjust we state our opposition as a matter of principle, but if the content of the peace plan is just, the substance is just, we shall go along with it," stressed Rafsanjani.

Asked on Iran's alleged support for terrorist groups, the president said: "These are baseless allegations that have been leveled against us on numerous occasions and they keep being repeated and we have given our replies and answers to those allegations. We have stated very clearly that we do not support any terrorist groups and we condemn all forms of terrosits acts," stressed the president.

"In Lebanon", he noted, "we do help, but our help goes to the Shi'a population. They are the target of the atrocities of the occupying forces. Their country, the southern part of Lebanon, is occupied and the victims of this occupation are helped by Iran. We also help these people to expel, push back, the occupation forces."

Pointing to the silence of Hezbollah vis-a-vis the probable peace between Beirut and Tel Aviv, President Rafsanjani remarked: "The objective of Hezbollah, in the first place, is to put an end to the occupation of their countrty by Zionists. Were the government of Lebanon to achieve such objective, both Hezbollah and we will be pleased and happy: but, Zionist regime is essentially expansionist," argued the president.

On the future of Iran-Syria relations in case the latter agrees to enter a peace with Israel, the president said, "We shall wait and see for that day to come. Then we shall state our view." Noting that Tehran has "excellent" relations with Syria presently, he added "We do not believe that Syria will submit to an unjust peace."

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As for the cost that Iran has paid for its opposition to the peace process between Arabs and Israel, President Rafsanjani stated: "If you want to be free-minded and defend your principles, you should be willing to pay the price. We are revolutionay and Muslims, and we are prepared to invest and pay the price for the principles that we believe. I think any free- minded person is willing to pay the price in order to defend his principles of freedom."

Touching upon the issue of bombing in Oklahoma, President Rafsanjani said: "At that time I was visiting Georgia and in a press interview I stated that we condemn such terrorist acts and are appaled by them. We consider these acts to be criminal. But that incident showed the threat and dangers that exist inside American society as a result of the injustices there."

Referring to the claims that said Iran was pursuing a covert nuclear weapons program, the president stressed, "These claims are only raised by Mr. Clinton, Christopher and the Israelis. Have any other people made such claims against us? Are there any other groups or people making such a claim?" Recalling a proverb of his hometown (Rafsanjan) which said if lie has a piece of bone, the liar would have choked on the bone because of lying so much, President Rafsanjani said: "And I say that if lie had a bone, you would have had new elections for your president now, because he would have choked by now. We have expressed our clear hatred and abhorrence for these weapons of mass destructiion that kill innocent and guilty togrther," stressed President Rafsanjani.

"We are ready to pay a high price for expressing our views on justice. What greater cruelty than the one the Americans committed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Anyone who has knowledge of that incident would not wish to have nuclear weapons," he stressed.

"The American people should rest assured that we are not pursuing, not on the path of acquiring nuclear weapons. The benefits of nuclear technology, of course, are numerous, and we cannot forgo other uses of peaceful nuclear technology," noted the president.

On Iran's responsibility as a powerful regional country in the Persian Gulf, President Rafsanjani said: "We believe that the littoral states in the Persian Gulf are the true owners of this area, and they have the responsibilty to maintain security and peace there. Half of the coastline belongs to Iran, so Iran alone has the same amount of rights and responsibility as all those countries put together."

Touching upon Iran-UAE misunderstanding over the Iranian island, President Rafsanjani stressed, "We think the reason is foregin instigation, coming mainly from the U.S. They want to use this as a pretext to assert their military presence in the Persian Gulf. This issue had been resolved before the Islamic revolution, but all of a sudden it was raised two years ago, and it has been inflamed."

Asked on the measures to resolve the problem, President Rafsanjani stated, "We believe in the 1971 treaty between Iran and the UAE. It's a good document for the two countries to sit down and resolve their differences."

As for Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia, the president described ties as "not very good. An average relationship - even less than average - but we would like to see an improvement."

"There are foreign instigations... The United States knows that if Iran and Saudi Arabia maintained good, friendly relations, then we could resolve many matters relating to oil, OPEC, and regional security problems and there would be no need to the U.S. to have its military bases in the Persian Gulf. And perhaps they want to impose the peace plan on the Arab countries and present Iran as an enemy to be scared of - as a threat against them - so that they could receive extortion from them."

Referring to Iran-Russia relations, President Rafsanjani said "Promotion of Iran-Russia relations serves the interests of both nations. Fortunately, the authorities of both countries realize the importance of this issue and that is why friendly relation between the two countries is not affected by adverse international political tides."

Touching upon bilateral relations between Iran and Iraq, the president said "Naturally we are not happy with the past experience we've had with Saddam. We suffered very much in the war Saddam initiated against us. We are opposed to the pressure and coercive actions of Saddam's government against his people. It is a dictatorship. We also opposed and voiced our opposition, especially with the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait."

"But if there is going to be a legitimate government in Iraq, we have to have some sort of relationship, because Iraq is our neighbor after all. We are acting according to the limits of the United Nations. In the future, different conditions may arise: We cannot predict the future," said the president.

Asked whether it was time for the U.N. to lift sanctions against Iraq, the president noted "The people of Iraq are helplessly bearing a great deal of suffering. There are innocent people who suffer very much as a result of the sanctions. Before they were the target of oppression by their own government, but now they are suffering from

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outside world as well. But as we are not sure if the Iraqi Government would abandon its adventurist policies, we have to think about a solution to these two problems."

Asked on activities of political factions in Iran, President Rafsanjani said "Like any other countries where there are free elections, in Iran, too, political group rivalry is serious business. These differeces are nothing new in Iran."

He added "I am aware that certain Western quarters attempt to present the differences in Iran as a point of instability in or perhaps even threat against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, these differences are, in and of themselves, a clear indication of political stability and maturity of our system."

On function of the Majles President Rafsanjani said, "I believe as long as these differences are within the framework of the Constitution they will be a vehicle for growth and progress in the country and ensure the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, as the president, I would like the Majles (parliament) to be more in line with and supportive of the policies and decisions of my government."

On the status of women in Iran, the president said, "During the former regime, our women who were religious did not participate in social activities very much because of the corruption in and opposition to the regime. There was a distance between women and social affairs of the country.

"After the revolution, we invited the people to encourage their daughters to play a more active role in the society. And we encourage them very much to send their childern for higher education, to higher institutes of learning and research centers.

"Now, about 35 percent of our university students are women and over 10 percent of school teachers are women. We do not have many women at the level of high management. But, their number is increasing in the paliament and top management. We think the status of women has been enhanced and their future is even better in this country."

On the country's economy, the president said, "I can say that most of our needs in Iran from the designing to engineering and production are done inside the country.

"Our foreign debts as compared to other countries of course is less, is not that much, is dlrs. 18 billion, but we have used this foreign debt in order to strengthen the economy: We have invested in infrastructure and other things.

"They are points of strength for our economy and we do not have any difficulty in repayment of our foreign debts. They are paid in instalments within five or six years and it will not be a heavy burden on us.

"And it will be amortized by the year 2,000. And it is a guarantee for the sale of our oil if the U.S wants to prevent the selling of our oil.

"I do not believe that we have much economic difficulty in front of us. Of course, we have inflation in this country because we have spent much money in industry on projects that are not yet finished, but compared with other countries in the region our inflation is low and life is less expensive.

"If you look at the countries around us and the products going from Iran to those countries, they are very profitable for them, to trade."

On the future of Iran, President Rafsanjani said, "From an economic point of view, I see Iran to be very strong in the future, because of the rich resources. We have the second largest natural gas reserves in the world.

"From the human resources perspective, we are also in a good position. We are training very good human resource pool with a bright future. And priority in investment goes to infrastracture projects.

"From the political point of view, and internationally, we try to defuse the negative propaganda being waged against Iran. Since our policy is based on having friendly and cooperative relations with all the countries of the world, it is only natural to have good international relations."

Report Views Clinton Meeting With Opposition Head

MM1207111895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Adviser to Shah's Son Tells AL-HAYAH: Clinton Meeting With Pahlavi Moral Support"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — Mahradad Khansari, adviser to Reza Pahlavi, has said that the meeting that took place between U.S. President Bill Clinton and the son of the late shah of Iran in a Washington restaurant is bound to "provide strong moral support for the Iranian people and the opposition."

He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone yesterday that this meeting will increase speculation inside the Iranian regime and will increase the heat of the U.S. pressure on Tehran. He believes that the White House's announcement of the meeting is also bound to send a message to the effect that the U.S. Administration considers Pahlavi, not the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, as the main opposition party.

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He said that at the brief meeting Clinton wished Reza Pahlavi "all the best" after warmly shaking hands with him. [passage omitted]

Officials Address Serb Aggression in Bosnia

Khamene'i Assails West for Situation

LD1207115795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, this morning met the commanders and a number of the personnel of the Law Enforcement Forces on eve of Law Enforcement Week. [passage omitted]

In his speech to the meeting, Khamene'i said: In those societies, which have turned their backs on spiritual and divine values and are immersed in corruption, the feelings of adversity are increasing among the people. Financial development and wealth is unable to make people fortunate. The root of the atrocities and crimes, which are constantly taking place in such societies, exists in the spiritual poverty and dreadful absence of ethics. It is based on this fact, that the genocide by Serb's criminals in Bosnia- Herzegovina does not affect the consciences of those in the materialist Western societies.

The great leader of the Islamic Revolution considered the catastrophe caused by Serbs in Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a catastrophe which is taking place before the eyes of the Western materialistic states and nations, as an obvious example of their false claims concerning the defense of human rights. He added: The shocking events in Srebrenica and other cities of Bosnia-Herzegovina confirm that the U.S. claims concerning its support for human rights is false; and shows the incapability of the UN Security Council, which has been formed for supposedly ensuring the security of nations.

The great leader of revolution emphasized the inability of the Western regimes to take charge of the world; and at the end of his speech said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] Western regimes, Western civilization, and Western advocators are unable to take charge of the world. They have no right to make a claim to sovereignty over the five to six billion people throughout the countries in the world, as they cannot govern themselves. They cannot ensure their own security. They cannot prevent the greatest catastrophe of the world. What is their claim? And then they, the Americans, are expressing views and imposing their presence on the Persian Gulf, on the countries in the Middle East, on the Central Asian regions, and on each part of the world. For what reason, with what clear conscience, with which strong resolve, with what clean record do you claim that you should be involved in the issues concerning the nations and countries. All these emanate from the absence of spirituality.

This country has become dear in the world as a result of turning to spirituality. The nation obtained authority in the world arena thanks to resorting to Islam and spirituality. Today the world superpowers, who consider each corner of the world to be theirs and express views and instruct the governments, the kings and the presidents — and dictate their views to them and the leaders have to obey — dare to express even a single word as a view on the Iranian nation and government. They know it that it will be rejected thanks to the fact that this nation has turned to Islam, the Koran, and Islamic values. You should safeguard these. [crowd shouts: "God is great," " Khamene'i is the leader," " Death to world arrogance," "Death to America," "Death to Israel."] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Velayati Writes Butrus-Ghali on Crisis

LD1107124295 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a letter to the secretary-general of the United Nations, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, making him aware of the critical situation existing in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

The Iranian foreign minister showed great concern over the deteriorating situation in that country instigated by continuous Serbian attacks against the safe area of Srebrenica. The Serbs' aggressive acts have resulted in genocide of the Muslims in the area.

'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed his regret over a non-settled final peace plan despite several proposed plans. He requested that an immediate solution be found that the Serbian rebels comply with the peace initiatives.

Velayati reminded the secretary-general of the responsibility the United Nations has in protecting the safe areas which are under the constant attack of the rebels.

Velayati finally asked Butrus Butrus-Ghali to take such measures as to stop the advancement of the Serbian rebels in those areas. He stressed the fact that such an advancement towards the safe areas could lead to yet another tragedy.

The foreign minister concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted to see that a durable solution to the crisis is found for the Balkan crisis.

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Velayati Talks With Greek Counterpart

LD1007175895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Greek foreign minister, in a telephone conversation with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, today expressed his concern about the Bosnian situation. He called for Iran, Greece, and Bosnia to hold a tripartite session.

Welcoming the Greek foreign minister's proposal on holding a tripartite session by Iran, Greece, and Bosnia, Mr. Velayati expressed the hope that, with the continuation and increase of diplomatic efforts and cooperation between the two countries, the clashes in Bosnia will end as soon as possible and peace will prevail in that republic.

Stressing that the UN resolutions have imposed arms sanctions on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he called for the Bosnian people to be armed so that they can defend their country.

Referring to the attack by the Serbian rebels on Srebrenica, he said: Unfortunately, the UN forces, who are commissioned to defend the areas that have been declared safe by the United Nations, by withdrawing from Srebrenica have prepared the ground for the fall of that city.

Sudan's al-Bashir Sends Letter on 'Tension'

LD1207105395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a message addressed to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Sudan's President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has explained the dimensions of the tension created between Sudan and Egypt, and the regretful political and military developments which have recently been created among the two neighbors, saying his considers them the result of misunderstandings and spiteful propaganda by the enemies of the unity of Islamic Ummah.

Sudan's president strongly refutes the accusations made by Egypt against Sudan on that country's involvement in the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president. In his message, al-Bashir says that these overt and covert accusations are being made at a time when the brother country Ethiopia is still investigating the incident and has not released any information in relation to these accusations.

Commentary Addresses U.S. 'Pressure' on Sudan

NC1107095795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Jul 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "Cairo: The United States Pulls the Pressure Lever on Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following the assassination attempt on Husni Mubarak and Cairo intensifying its useless anti-Sudanese propaganda, Egyptian-Sudanese relations deteriorated to the point where a bloody war was imminent. Egyptian and Sudanese forces were placed on military alert on their common border; a war between the two may flare up at any time.

It seems that in this crisis, the Americans are the main cause of the pressure on the Sudanese Government and they are using Egypt as the lever.

In Spring 1985, the 16-year-old rule of Sudan's pro-U.S. regime ended, and, as yet, the Americans have not spared any effort to pressure this African country's government. [passage omitted]

Therefore, the differences between Sudan and Egypt seem to be the outcome of foreign plots, provoked by the Americans and Zionists. The Egyptians were encouraged to carry out an offensive against the Sudanese by those who are scared of Sudan's quest for independence and who consider the al-Bashir rule to threaten their interests in North Africa.

In the past six years, the Sudanese Government has not given in to the Americans. It has done its best to expose those who, whether overtly or covertly, are interfering in its domestic affairs.

Also during this period, General al-Bashir has confronted most of the U.S. programs, plans, and policies in Sudan and has rendered the U.S. efforts useless. He has exposed and thwarted many U.S. plots. Throughout these years, the Americans have resorted to various means to force the Sudanese Government to surrender to their opportunist and expansionist polices and demands. [passage omitted]

But none of their pressures and threats have been able to make Khartoum give in to the excessive demands and blackmail by the rulers in the White House.

Daily Views Sudanese-Egyptian Tension

NC1007113995 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 95 p 16

[Commentary by Sa'id Khakrand: "The Egyptian-Sudanese Crisis Goes Beyond Hala'ib"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The abortive assassination attempt on Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa has once again

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exacerbated the already tense relations between Egypt and Sudan. And, just as in previous cases of tension between the two countries, Hala'ib on the Red Sea is being used as a pretext for Egypt to begin clashes.

Also, it was illogical for Cairo, and Husni Mubarak himself, to accuse Khartoum of having a hand in the Mubarak assassination attempt.

After making this accusation, the Egyptian regime began a military buildup on the border. It then battled Sudanese forces in Hala'ib, which it has claimed since 1958. This is as the Sudanese, like before, prevented the clashes from spreading by displaying self-restraint. This is because Sudanese officials do not consider war or armed clashes with Egypt to be good for Muslims and the Arabs. Further, they believe that the Zionists have the most to gain from these types of disputes.

Recently, the Sudanese Government tried several times to resolve the border dispute through peaceful means and diplomatic channels. The attempts failed because of Cairo's obstructionism.

Mubarak's allegation that Sudan was involved in the abortive assassination attempt is an empty allegation. If we closely examine the situation, one of the following possibilities can be seen to apply:

1. In recent years, Sudanese-Egyptian relations have become a parameter for Sudanese-Western relations. Therefore, as relations between Sudan and the West, and especially the United States, have deteriorated, Egyptian-Sudanese relations have deteriorated as well. This is why efforts by the United States and the West to contain Sudan and to transform it into a moderate country, responsive to or dependent on the United States, have failed. Thus, one can conclude that Egypt's recent actions, which used the abortive assassination attempt as a pretext, are part of the U.S. general strategy to confront Sudan.

2. The Arab-Israeli compromise issue has become a vital issue for the Zionist regime. Sudan has not adopted a clear position to help this process. Therefore, one cannot rule out that the Zionist factor, which has influence on the Egyptian regime, drives such crises. This is because border disputes between Arab and Islamic countries—regardless of their leanings—are a Zionist objective. Also, high-level Sudanese officials believe that decisions regarding the Sudanese-Egyptian border dispute, and the resulting clashes, are made outside Egypt and are directly linked to international Zionism. These officials believe that the Hala'ib crisis is a Zionist plot because the Zionists are trying to raise the issue of inter-Islamic differences and fan the flames of border disputes.

3. The Egyptian regime is trying to hide the fact that its domestic crisis and the growing opposition were reasons for the attempt on the president outside Egypt's borders. It is trying to move the crisis outside its borders. This is why Sudan was accused of involvement in the assassination attempt.

Regardless of which of these possibilities caused the friction, the Sudanese did not resort to a basic, military reaction against Egypt. Recently, the Sudanese have been mobilizing the military and popular forces defensively, but because of their peaceful nature, they have left the door for negotiations open and consider talks to be the best solution.

Contrary to the propaganda by the West, the United States, and Arab regimes, the Sudanese distance themselves from violence, assassination, military attempts, etc. This spirit is clearly seen in the country's politics, in the political processes and party differences.

The Sudanese have often said they would accept a delegation to inspect the centers that the Americans and the West allege are used to train terrorists. They have also said they oppose violent action in Islamic countries, especially in Egypt. Sudan, since governing following Islamic teachings, said this despite the Egyptian regime repeatedly attempting to exercise military pressure and economic sanctions on Sudan and playing a significant role in directing the opposition forces in Khartoum. Also, the Sudanese opposition considers Cairo as its activity center; it also uses the services the Egyptian regime gives it.

Khamene'i Addresses Councils on Morality, Ethics

LD1007180995 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — The leader of Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, met with the countrywide members of general cultural councils here yesterday, advising them on the necessity of proper guidance and the control of the norms associated with the aspects of general Islamic culture.

Ayatollah Khamene'i went on to say that such a guidance would leave an ever-lasting influence on the lives of the people and the Iranian nation. The leader of Islamic revolution expressed his optimism on the presence of top personalities, experts on education and cultural specialists in the councils

The leader of the Islamic revolution stated that these committed thinkers and educationalists who are dedicated to the promotion of general Islamic culture, must show sensitivity towards Islamic culture to try to devote

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their time, make use of their energy and show their creativity and inovation in that direction.

Ayatollah Khamene'i considered the individual morality and that of the society as being important criteria in providing direction to the nation.

The leader of Islamic revolution stated the general acceptable moral norm of the society can save the nation from idleness, poverty, misery and backwardness and help it transcend towards material progress, adding that this fact has been truly emphasized in Islam.

Ayatollah Khamene'i emphasized that the society has to show commitment to puncutality and work ethics.

The leader pointed out that any uncoordinated individual move is not healthful to the society, adding that Islamic precepts teach us to collectively coordinate and harmonize our actions.

Ayatollah Khamene'i underlined that patience, hospitality, amity, belovelance [as received] towards one's parents, and respect towards the elders are regarded as the other criteria of individual and social morality.

The leader of Islamic revolution then referred to the dark ages in Europe. He added that the Europeans were drowned in ignorance, backwardness and filth during that era. However, the moment they started ameliorating their culture, they made a leap forward in less than a century which transformed the whole Europe. The leader added that had the Europeans not aborted the spiritual aspect in their lives, they would have enjoyed a much better life today and the torch of their knowledge would have shone still brighter.

The leader of Islamic revolution talked of the role of the despotic rulers, sovereigns and the court clerics who contributed towards weakening the constructive and positive pillars of morality.

The leader said that what is left of the morality in the Islamic society is very valuable such as the great Islamic revolution, the achievements of eight year sacred defence, show of resistence against the threat from West, and the feeling of independence from the yoke of great powers.

He concluded that Iranian nation is proud to have a permanent share in this great Islamic heritage. He finally thanked Almighty Allah that the enemies of the religion could not find the opportunity to either weaken the remaining pillars or totally destroy them.

Daily Voices Skepticism About PCGG Meeting

LD0907052695 Tehran IRNA in English 0428 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — An English- language daily here Sunday [9 July] editorialized on the foreign ministerial meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) plus Syria and Egypt (6+2) and said that the foreign ministers have gathered in Bahrain to discuss cooperation and the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

TEHRAN TIMES wrote that the arrangement of the members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council plus Syria and Egypt, was formed after the Persian Gulf war and after the Damascus Declaration of March 1991.

Envisaging close military and economic cooperation between the eight Arab countries, the declaration has, in practice, remained a dead letter. When the most powerful country of the region, Iran, is not in the picture in an arrangement for regional cooperation, it is natural that such an arrangement would not work, the daily underlined.

It is pertinent here to remind the eight Arab countries who have convened in Bahrain that, despite goodwill gestures shown by the Arab countries, Israel is by no means sincere in the peace talks, said the paper, adding that from the very beginning Israel has resorted to political maneuver, procrastination, bargaining and adamancy.

The foreign ministers of the 6+2 should bear in mind that the Israeli occupation of Muslim lands has always been a source of tension and instability in the region. The Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights led to the emergence of resistance movements as a just and legitimate means of self-defense vis-a-vis the Israelis, the daily pointed out.

"Occupation and peace cannot go together. History has proven that the Israelis are not sincere in their relations with the Arabs. Hence, the Arabs must spare no effort in supporting the genuine Muslim movements in the occupied territories. Freedom can only come through the barrel of a gun. The foreign ministers should not forget that it is not only pieces of land which are at stake, but Arab dignity and pride. The Arabs can rely on Iran as a strong ally and sincere brother," TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

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Possible Results of Meeting Viewed

LD0907123695 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Israel is in search of legitimacy and wishes to wield influence over the countries of the region and the world at large and will leave no stone unturned in order to achieve this, an English-Language daily wrote Sunday [9 July].

"Israel will resort to economic relations, peace proposals, and even war to reach its objective," IRAN NEWS underlined.

Referring to the meeting held between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and the six member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), it noted that the meeting is slated to take up regional developments, negotiations between Syria and Israel for the latter's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, as well as military and economic cooperation within the framework of the 1991 Damascus Declaration.

"A glance at Syria's stands over the past years well indicates a shift of views on peace with Israel: In case its conditions and demands are met, Syria will accept peace with the Zionist state," the editorial added.

In fact, by lobbying with other countries, Syria intends to shed light on its stances, it said, adding that one forum to be used for this purpose is the Bahrain meeting.

The daily further stated that Syria and other regional countries should pay heed to such considerations that as repeatedly proven Israel is not to be trusted, since views of all Palestinians are not taken into account about the future of their country, peace will be shaky and fragile in this region and, any decisions regarding regional matters made by the so-called 6+2 member states is not acceptable since some of the members lack geographical and political proximity with the regional countries.

Based on the reasons cited, the 6+2 member states will not be able to come up with a regional or perhaps a military pact, the article reiterated.

It concluded by saying, "but some countries will gain something from such meetings; they will be able to gain access to the petro- dollars of the Persian Gulf littoral states."

Paper Cites Lack of Rice Availability

95LA0271B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Rice consumers say that the consequence of the increase in the rate of foreign currency, hoarding, smuggling of domestic products to Central Asian countries, insufficient rice imports, and indifference of the Inspection and Supervision Organization regarding violations by some guild units has been the tremendously high price of rice and other goods.**

The growing increase in the price of rice and the lack of balance between supply and demand has caused concern for the people. In order to prevent the price increase of the product and its effect on other goods, they expect rapid steps to be taken.

Purchasers say that at the present, a kilogram [kg] of ordinary Iranian rice in Tehran is sold at at least 450 tumans, and high-quality rice is sold at nearly 600 tumans.

A kg of Thailand rice is sold at about 300 tumans, American Apache rice at 350 to 370 tumans, Vietnamese at 250 tumans, and Uruguayan at 300 tumans. These prices are a little different in other areas of the country.

This report indicates that Dudi Sadri rice in Gilan, depending on quality, is 450-525 tumans; unmarked, 400-470 tumans; and Khazar and Safidrud, 380-425 tumans, which compared to Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] of last year shows an increase of more than double in price.

Another report from Mazandaran indicates that despite the recession in the rice market, Tarom rice is sold at 430-460 tumans, Khazar at 350-370 tumans, and Tarom Askari at 350-360 tumans, and this increasing trend is continuing.

In the area of problems with procurement of rice, a purchaser named 'Azizi, who is an employee of the Department of Education, said: Rice wholesalers and retailers, by hoarding and price hiking, increase the price of this product every day, and no organization prevents them from doing so. He added: The government must either increase imports or have supervision over the sale of goods, especially rice.

Daily Views Decisions on Goods, Foreign Currency

95LA0264D Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 May 95 pp 7, 3

[Article by Akbar A'lami]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Adequate Conditions of New Government Decisions**

It has been several days since the government has implemented its new decisions to control the market of goods and foreign currency. Mr. Mohammadkhan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, announced that

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the new foreign currency policies are permanent and are the axis for future economic policies. He emphasized that the government is determined to use all existing leverages to continue the policy of market control. At the same time, he continued to say decisively that this decision is also in line with the implementation of the modification policy.

While the recent government policies regarding the improvement in the situation of foreign currency and goods must be taken as a good omen and success for all the related officials, it is useful to make a few points in this connection.

1. Despite the changes and the essential revisions that occurred in the economic policies of the government in the past couple of years, their lack of relationship to the previously announced policies stated in the economic modification policy is obvious. Still, it is not clear to this writer what the reason is for some of the economic officials of the country not reducing their obligations with regard to defending the economic modification policy, which was a predetermined prescription, whereas considering the two plans and the ratified budget laws that have been implemented, we realize that what is now announced is quite different from what was implemented and was supposed to continue in terms of form and material. Hence, explaining such policies as "second ruling" would not change the nature of the first ruling, which is the precise implementation of the modification policy. In this case, the defenders of the modification policy, by making such decisions, associate the idea in the minds of their audience with the story of the champion who wanted to have the picture of a lion tattooed on his body without a mane, tail, and belly. Here, Mr. Mohammadkhan and other defenders of the economic modification policy must prove how the return of coupons, the pricing of goods and foreign currency, etc., can be considered in the same vein as the modification policy projected in the First and Second Plans, the 1368 to 1373 [21 March 1989-20 March 1995] budget laws, and the modification policies experimented with in the neighboring and Third World countries.

2. One group of economic officials of the country apparently does not believe in the principle of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and prefers the testing of principles of the economic theories stated in the West over this principle, always considering the remedy after the economic policies and theories have failed. In other words, they go toward war or peace from a reactionary position and in the condition of absolute disarmament, and when the wrong results appear, they vaccinate the patient, which is a preventative means prior to the occurrence of the spread of the disease, not realizing that vaccination is a preventative not a cure. Obviously, under such conditions, with the ineffectiveness of vaccination and the disease becoming critical or the exhaustion of the abilities of the patient, the field for every sort of activity and maneuver is given over to the viruses, which infiltrate various parts of the body of the patient and neutralize every preventative action. Most unfortunately, with regard to a part of the national economy, as a result of their negligence and sometimes inattention, a number of economic officials, "operating again" with the national capital and foreign currency reserves, have moved the national economy in such a direction that the implementation of certain policies is like a vaccination that should have been injected before but has been injected too late. Even though the kinds of policies can be defended by nature, the passage of time has reduced their efficiency. Under such conditions of the honorable minister of economic affairs announcing decisively that new foreign currency policies are permanent and the axis for the future economic policies of the country, it means that not only are such policies not contrary to the interests of the regime and the improvement of the national economy, but these are measures that are devised out of necessity, and since they are in line with the accepted principles in the economic system of the country, they can be implemented as the axis of the economic policies permanently.

Hence, this question requires a suitable response: Why did they refuse to implement such policies prior to a part of the foreign currency reserves of the country being wasted, in this way filling the insatiable bellies of the dealers and middlemen? Before a significant portion of the fruits of the people's labor and domestic products were transferred abroad every year and out of the resulting foreign currency, which amounts to $4 billion, 75 percent, or at least 50 percent, went into circulation outside the monetary and foreign currency system of the country and created such a calamity for the people and the country that today to prevent more calamity these decisions are being made? Why did they allow such a chaos to be created in the market of goods and foreign currency, while every day the people's trust in the monetary and financial policies of the country decreases? The honorable Mr. Mohammadkhan and the honorable director of the Central Bank will agree that the policies to be implemented now were certainly available in the past, when stronger leverages were at the disposal of the government and could have been more effective. It seems now that the time has come for these dear ones and the honorable Mr. 'Adeli, who serves as the advisor to the honorable president, while responding to these question, to also admit that they have realized that in a country with a small economy the open door policies common in countries

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with large economies cannot be followed without facing failure. Why have they presented the propagators and supporters of this policy in the past as ill willed, ignorant, superficial, naive, and the like? If, under such circumstances, a person has been bold enough to point out this phenomenon and what has been implemented as lack of proper understanding by the related officials of the conditions at the present and in the future of the country and the inability to correctly project the effective internal and external factors in the national economy, has he committed an error?

3. Even though the new policy of the government to control the price of goods and foreign currency in terms of time, considering all the present requirements and conditions, is implemented somewhat late and essentially its effects will be less than they could have been under the past conditions in which the government had stronger leverages and tools, it is nonetheless a policy that had to be implemented. What has not been implemented is the necessary condition to reach the goal, and its success depends on providing adequate conditions and the needed course. These conditions are:

a. The experience of several years of the national economy has shown very well that always the general level of prices so-called "locks" on the basis of the highest price of foreign currency and goods. In other words, following economic fluctuations which result in the increase in the price of foreign money and goods, the prices, under the effect of numerous factors, including psychological factors, profiteering, opportunism, and the people's expectations, are fixed at their highest level. With the full relative improvement of the conditions, prices will not decrease significantly. For example, in the past few months, with the increase of 20-70 percent in the foreign currency rate, the prices of many imported goods, and consequently domestic products, have increased from 50-500 percent. Despite the fact that in the course of this week, the price of foreign currency compared to previous weeks has decreased by 20 percent, no tangible change is seen in the goods market, and if a small change is created, it is not at all proportionate to the increased rate, and the prices continue to be locked on the basis of R7,200 to the dollar. This phenomenon is not exclusive to the private sector and includes products produced by the units under the control of the government as well. For example, a car that is imported CKD [Completely Knocked Down] at $3,500 by government-affiliated companies is sold to the consumer at more than $12,000, and a domestically produced car that is sold at less than $2,000 outside the Iranian borders is sold at the equivalent of $10,000 in rials. A motorcycle that costs less than 200,000 tumans is sold by Tizrow Company for more than 700,000 tumans.

Considering the above point and noting the fact that the rate of foreign currency is affected by domestic prices, and those two have mutual effects on each other, it is necessary and it is one of the certain conditions of the success of the policies in question for the government to open the locked prices and make them appropriate to the announced rates.

b. In their transactions, people trade items that are desirable to both sides. Obviously, if an item is less desirable, more of it must be paid; otherwise, there would be no trade. Foreign currency is also like an item of goods, the difference being that its desirability is not intrinsic; it becomes desirable because in particular situations it can be converted into desirable objects. In order to succeed in its policies, the government must either limit the situations that create such desirability or necessarily provide for the requirements of such situations and demands. The recent policy requires the first solution. In this case, it is necessary to find a solution to controlling or closing the free zones of procurement of foreign currency needed by travelers, students, and patients; the import of smuggled goods; etc. Otherwise, these instances are examples of the conditions and situations that create desirability and the conditions for foreign currency demands. On the other hand, due to the past fluctuations in the national economy, some people prefer to keep foreign currencies rather than domestic currency. Part of the demand existing in the foreign currency market is the result of such preferences, and these preferences are the result of factors such as: anticipation of the future situation of foreign currency rate; the situation of domestic currency; comparison between the domestic price of imported goods inside and outside the country; anticipation of unfavorable economic conditions for the payment of debts to foreign lenders; momentary, sudden, temporary monetary and financial policies; very low rate of profit by the banks on deposits compared to the rate of inflation; and the like.

The implementation of the recent economic policy, while ignoring these points as the adequate condition of the success of the policy, can end in:

1. A significant decrease in the exports of the country due to the high rate of inflation and a decrease in the rate of foreign currency (compared to the past), as well as the decrease in the imports of goods as the result of the implementation of this policy and the decrease in exports.

2. The excessive demand for goods needed in the country, including investment and consumer or intermediary

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goods—that is the result of the shortage of such goods in the country—will increase the demand for foreign currency for the import of smuggled goods, and as a result, due to the decrease in exports and the shortage of foreign currency in demand in the market, this time, the rates of foreign currency and inflation will increase more severely.

Article Addresses Current Economic Situation

95LA0264C Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 May 95 p 2

[Article by 'Abbas 'Abdi]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Our Economic Analysis**

Was the present economic situation predictable? Was there any reason for opposing the modification policies in the form implemented? In order to respond to these questions, we offer our honorable readers our section on economic positions that was published on 17/01/1371 [6 April 1992] in SALAM and which points out that these positions, in the past year (from the start of the publication of the newspaper to the time of the publication of the position), were published on different occasions.

Now, after more than three years from that date, once again we print this section for our honorable readers and those involved in economic policies to contemplate somewhat.

A Look at the Past

Some unfairly condemn the past 10 years of the Iranian economy, citing the worsening of some of the economic indexes, and they defend the present policies based on the improvement of those indexes.

We are not trying to defend the past unquestioningly. We especially consider the improper emphasis on stabilization of the foreign currency rate to be wrong, but we believe that one cannot prove the present policies by rejecting the past policies and then by resorting to only a few statistical indexes. The reason for our belief stems from the fact that an important difference between the past and present is consistently ignored, and that is the existence of the imposed war. This war caused a decrease in revenues, an increase in expenditures, and the taking out of circulation much of the human and material resources from the arena of the economy and production. Hence, any comparison must be made with consideration for this factor. It can be observed that in some of the war years, the economic indexes were even better than the indexes in recent years; that is, 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

Nevertheless, we believe that change toward an economic balance (within the national framework and not on the global arena) is better and that the resources be allocated only if the grounds are prepared for the suitable and beneficial operation of this policy. However, under the present conditions, not only will the implementation of this policy not result in the desirable allocation of resources, but it will also not result in any structural changes in the economy. The modification policy is beneficial when all the conditions are changed in the interest of production (whether agricultural or industrial). This policy is beneficial when it increases investments, especially by the private sector and in production areas. This policy is desirable when it results in the increase in exports (of course, industrial and agricultural goods and not merely handicrafts and carpets) compared to imports. This policy is desirable when the situation of taxes is reformed in a way that the share of direct taxes (and not only from salary earners) increases.

What the statistics show about the economic realities is that the important indexes mentioned have not changed significantly. Also, it must be noted that accepting the policy of an open door economy with foreign countries will result in the consuming of our weak economy by their strong ones, and this is a danger that should by no means be ignored.

It seems that the power of the capitalists in the services sector of the Iranian economy and the accumulation of cash flow in this sector is a serious factor that will prevent the entry of capital in the industries and agricultural sectors. The relative failure of the stock market with regard to the sale of the shares of the government factories also proves this idea because despite the huge volume of money accumulated in the private sector, their general inclination is not toward the production sectors. Until this inclination is created or cash flow is eliminated (at least modified), any sort of planning in the framework of economic modification and with the goal of continual increased production of industrial and agricultural goods is impossible.

Under the circumstances of even the production and productive manpower sectors preferring to be absorbed by the services sector, how can there be any confidence in the strengthening and growth of production? Of course, there is no denying that some of the past policies have caused these inclinations, but this does not mean that the existing policies can eliminate these inclinations.

It must be noted that the existing cash flow in Iran is in a dormant state, which will awaken as a result of the slightest movement and create such tremendous inflation that it will disrupt all affairs.

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Any sort of planning by the government to improve the economic situation is possible when the control of the main economic factors is to a large extent in the hands of the government, or at least the government is able to give them the direction it wishes and which are appropriate. It seems though, that considering the existing conditions and resources, control and guidance of the cash flow is outside the power of the government.

The Role of the Government

One of the points to which attention must be paid is the difference between accepting the involvement of the market and privatization. In other words, these two do not necessitate each other. The economy of a country may accept the involvement of the market but maintain government ownership, such as China at the present time. The failure of the privatization of factories in Iran is due to the private sector's insensitivity to having an effective presence in production.

Enumerating the negative side effects of government involvement in economic affairs is not an acceptable reason for negating government involvement. Essentially, both cases—involvement and lack of involvement—have their benefits and side effects. We must compare and choose between the benefits and side effects.

We have a long way to go before control of the economic affairs is given to the private sector, but we must not create or imagine conflicts of interest between the private and government sectors. If the interests of any component of the private sector are moving in the direction of the national interests, giving the affairs of that component to the private sector is not only not problematic, but it is necessary. In this case, the strengthening of the productive private sector (both industrial and agricultural) is quite verifiable.

Borrowing

Entering the ranks of borrowing countries is a dangerous whirlpool that threatens our revolution and independence. Our basic policy is to oppose foreign borrowing, with some exceptions, especially when there is a consensus about the benefits in a particular instance. Otherwise, our consumer needs are such that any sort of loan will be rapidly spent on the consumer and nonproductive needs, and, as a result, upon their due dates, no new sources of revenues will have been created in the country from which to be able to repay the loan. This is the same vicious cycle into which others have also fallen; that is, we must get new loans to pay off the previous ones.

Now it must be asked, which one of these predictions did not come true?

1. Did investments increase?
2. Did the share of taxes, especially direct taxes, in the national budget go up?
3. Did the private sector move its capital more than in the past toward production?
4. Did the exports of carpets and traditional goods or industrial goods increase?
5. Did they control cash flow?
6. Were structural reforms made?
7. Was privatization successful?
8. Finally, were the loans spent as we predicted?

May God grant us a good fate.

Prices of Various Food Items Decrease

95LA0272G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Following the new decisions concerning the stability of the foreign currency rate, the price of some food items dropped, and the increase in the price of some other items was prevented.**

According to a report by RESALAT's economic correspondent, the present wholesale price of legumes has dropped significantly compared to the past 10 days, and on the wholesale level, a kilogram of legumes is traded as follows: chick peas, 4,000 rials [R]; split peas, R4,000; kidney beans, R3,500; red beans, R2,000; white beans, R2,000; lentils, R2,400; mung beans, R1,700; and dried fava beans, R1,000.

These prices in the past were R5,500, R5,500, R4,000, R2,800, R2,800, R2,800, R1,900, and R1,000, respectively.

The wholesaler considered the supply of new products to the market to be effective in lowering prices in addition to stabilizing the rate of foreign currency.

Mohammad Reza Ya'quibi, a seller of foodstuff on Shari'ati Street, also said: If the recent decisions continue, they will result in the drop in prices, which have increased falsely.

He added: Of course, the prices have not dropped much at the retail level; this drop is mostly at the wholesale level.

Karimi, a customer, approving the recent government policy on stabilizing prices and preventing the fluctuation of the foreign currency rate, says: The government must continue the policy of preventing the fluctuation of the foreign currency rate and the procurement of raw materials needed by production factories on the basis of a specific foreign currency rate in order to remove the excuse from those who have regularly increased prices.

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Based on this report, the price of rice, too, considering the recent policies and the announcement of its distribution in the form of modification coupons, has also begun to drop significantly. Davud Heydari, a seller of foodstuff, says in this connection: The price of a kg of Thailand rice has dropped to R2,600, American rice to R4,000, and high quality Tarom rice from R7,000 to R6,000.

Also, the price of a kg of high quality Khazar rice dropped from R6,500 to R5,300, Tarom Askari from R5,500 to R5,000, high quality Amol from R5,000 to R4,500, and high quality Pakistani from R5,000 to R3,600.

Retail Price of Edible Items and Foodstuff in Tehran (rials per kg)

Veal	9,000
Lamb	7,500
Chicken	3,900
Egg carton	3,600
Arasu macaroni (900 g)	1,000
Turkish macaroni (450 g)	320
Iranian cheese (avg.)	6,000
Lentils	3,700
Split peas	6,300
Chick peas	6,000
Red beans	3,500
Kidney beans	4,000
White beans	2,900
Golgis tea (per package)	1,900
Bahareh tea (per package)	2,100
Golestan tea	12,500
Ceylon tea (open)	2,700
American rice	4,000
Pakistani rice	3,600
Thailand rice	2,600
Tarom rice	6,000
Amol rice	4,500
Askari Tarom rice	5,000
Khazar rice	5300
Veal	9,000
Qods tomato paste	3,500
Liquid corn oil	21,000
Pak detergent powder	900
Vash clothes detergent powder	1,200
Hegzan liquid	1,100
Rika liquid	1,000
Sugar cubes, scarce	
Sugar, scarce	
Shortening, scarce	

Pakistan

Daily Views U.S. Stance on PRC Missiles

BK1007154595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Haven't We Heard This Before?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHINA has shipped M-11 medium range ballistic missiles to Pakistan, the Washington Post accused in a "news" story published last week. The State Department spokesman magnanimously declared that the US has not yet determined that such a transfer has taken place. At the same time, he warned that the US government takes such allegations seriously and that "the accusations are under review". [quotation marks as published] The spokesman made it very clear that the sanctions for violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) would be quite serious.

Earlier, The New York Times had published a similar story which quoted a CIA report as saying that the agency has collected incontrovertible evidence that Pakistan is in possession of the Chinese M-11 missiles. The evidence that has been specifically mentioned are some empty cartons which have reportedly been spotted at Pakistan's Sargodha air base! The cartons might well have carried mangoes which this time arrived safely at their destination.

The whole thing sounds so familiar. Even the sequence and squealing appear to be a repeat performance. In August 1993, US sanctions against Pakistan and China were preceded by similar reports in the American press. China was accused of shipping components of M-11 short range missiles to Pakistan. Initially, the US spokesman said there was not sufficient evidence but the administration was studying the matter. Then it was determined that the Chinese did violate MTCR and economic sanctions were imposed on China and Pakistan; on China for exporting missiles and on Pakistan

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for possessing these components! Pakistan was not affected because it was already under Pressler restrictions but China did feel the impact, particularly because only months ago the US government had recognised the status of China as the most favoured nation (MFN). China and Pakistan both protested at the US decision in 1993 as being unjust. The US imposition of sanctions was unjustified because neither Pakistan nor China violated MTCR. China agreed to abide by MTCR guidelines in February 1992 and Pakistan acquired, much before that date, a limited number of Chinese missiles in response to Scud missile attacks on Pakistan's territory during the Afghan war. It was a legitimate self-defence arrangement. The sanctions, nevertheless, were imposed only to be lifted in October 1994 after an agreement with China that called for discussions on missile technology transfers.

Press reports this time too are transparently based on arranged leaks but they cannot be discarded simply because they are false and without substance. US foreign policy managers seem to have some definite trick up their sleeves. What could that be? Pressurising China to accept US dealings with Taiwan as a separate entity? Interrupting the otherwise smooth US-Pakistan relationship that may emerge after the question of return of Pakistan's money or sale of equipment already paid for is settled? Is it a mere coincidence that these reports started appearing at a time when the process for reviving US-Pakistan bilateral relationship are on and President Clinton is seeking Congressional authorisation to do the needful?

Or is the US trying to create room for more sanctions against Iran? The question arises because this time press reports also mention Iran as a recipient of Chinese missiles. The US is using American press reports to pressurise China into discussions on its military sales programme to foreign countries, including Iran. China has rejected the demand declaring that China will never agree to discuss the matter with a third country. The threat in US spokesman's comment on The Washington Post report was too clear to miss. He had indicated that this time sanctions against China would be more severe than before. The fact that China refused to follow American sanctions against Iran might have led the Americans to look for other means to coerce China into falling in line. Also, they would like to have one more gun to shoot at Iran. The M-11 missile issue was handy and the stage was set through usual arranged leaks. The US press was as eager to oblige as ever.

Any one of the above scenarios, a combination of these or all put together may be the reason for recycling the "reports" which provided a fig leaf of justification for imposing unjust sanctions in the past. Dismissing recent press reports as baseless must not be treated as an end of the matter particularly so when such reports in the past proved to be the harbingers of unilateral, substantive punitive actions by the US administration. Pakistan Foreign Office will do well to take a real hard look at the fresh spate of accusations in the US press and prepare to deal with the worst case scenario.

Bhutto Remarks on Release of Burmese Dissident

BK1107142695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed delight on the unconditional release of the Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. In a statement, she said the Burmese leader won the admiration and respect of the Pakistanis and people all over the world for her steadfast commitment to her ideals and principles.

Official Refutes Indian Allegations on Kidnapping

BK1107113995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has refuted baseless Indian allegations with regard to the issue of foreign nationals kidnapped in Indian-occupied Kashmir. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has always opposed all acts of terrorism regardless of the motivation. The spokesman condemned the kidnaping of foreign nationals in occupied Kashmir, who have no involvement in the struggle of Kashmiri people, and demanded immediate release of the kidnappees. He made it clear that the incident had been masterminded by forces which wanted to discredit the just struggle of the Kashmiri people.

'Sources' Report on Kidnapping of PRC Engineer

BK1107102895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Jul 95 p 12

[Report by Saeddullah Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] D.I. Khan — A Chinese engineer working with China Petroleum and Engineering Construction Corporation (CPECC) Mr. Wong was kidnapped from Razmak about 55 kms from here.

According to sources, Wong was working at contract No. 9 of the CPECC near Razmak and was kidnapped by some unidentified persons from near the border of the NWFP [North West Frontier Province] and the Punjab. The kidnapper came on a motorcycle and put the Chinese engineer into his pick-up van along with the motorcycle and drove away. Local police and the administration expressed ignorance about the

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incident. The Chinese company informed its embassy in Islamabad and the high-ups of the National Highways Authority.

Romanian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives for 2-Day Visit

BK0907114995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, arrived in Islamabad today on a two-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and the minister for food and agriculture, Nawab Mohammad Yusuf Talpur. Formal talks between Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and the Romanian prime minister will be held tomorrow.

Meets Bhutto, Signs Agreements

BK1007132195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting prime minister of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held talks in Islamabad today on promotion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. They exchanged views on situation in their respective regions and international developments of interest to the two countries. Ms. Benazir Bhutto briefed the Romanian prime minister about the situation in South Asian region, including situation in occupied Kashmir. She said despite Pakistan's best efforts to have a dialogue with India on Kashmir, there was no positive response from the Indian side. She also briefed Mr. Vacaroiu about the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan's support for UN peace efforts. She said Pakistan's policy is not to interfere in the internal affairs of any country and that Pakistan does not support any particular faction in Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Romania today signed three agreements, including the one on trade, economic, and technical cooperation. The other two agreements were on cooperation in science and technology and promotion and reciprocal protection of investment. For Pakistan, the agreements were signed by the minister for foreign affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, and the minister for industries and production, retired Brigadier Mohammad Asghar. For Romania, the agreements were signed by the ministers for commerce, research and technology and industry. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu were present at the signing ceremony.

Meets Leghari, Addresses Kashmir

BK1207004995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Romania and Pakistan should focus on specific areas for enhancing the level of cooperation in trade, investment, and joint ventures in the private as well as public sector. He was talking to Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, prime minister of Romania, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president house] in Islamabad today. The president expressed the desire to increase the value and volume of trade with Romania and to bridge the trade deficit between the two countries. He said that they could share and tailor their facilities to meet each other's requirements. He asked the Romanian prime minister to exercise influence on India for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. About the Kashmir issue, the Romanian prime minister said they want political dialogue to solve the Kashmir problem and to avoid any further sufferings and loss of human lives.

Speaking at a luncheon hosted in honor of the Romanian prime minister, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged the world community to forcefully raise its voice against massive human rights violations, oppression, and terror in occupied Kashmir.

[Begin Bhutto recording] After the end of the Cold War, the democratic revolution, which swept Eastern Europe a few years ago, gave fresh hope to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for their right of right of self-determination. They have taken their destiny in their own hands and will not be stopped by the brutality with which the Indian occupation forces are trying to beat them into submission. Today, more than half a million Indian troops are on the rampage in the occupied state in a futile effort to suppress the Kashmiri people. The whole world has now been made aware of the gross and systematic violations of human rights being committed on a daily basis by the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir. We hope that countries which believe in the universality of human rights will forcefully raise their voice against the oppression and terror in Kashmir. As long as the Kashmir problem remains unresolved, as long as the Kashmiris are not allowed to determine their future in accordance with UN resolutions, tension and distrust will continue in South Asia. We are prepared to enter into a dialogue with India provided India shows the will to have substantive talks on the Kashmir dispute. [end recording]

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said it is the responsibility of the world community to uphold the territo-

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rial integrity of Bosnia- Herzegovina, which has been subjected to aggression. About Pakistan-Romanian relations, the prime minister said friendship between the two countries has been developing steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations more than 30 years ago.

Speaking on this occasion, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu said he had useful talks with the president and prime minister of Pakistan, which will help expand bilateral relations between the two countries. He said after the end of the Cold War, there are still tensions and open conflicts in some parts of the world. He mentioned the common desire of Pakistan and Romania for maintaining peace in the world. Federal ministers, ministers of state, chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, senior officials, and members of the entourage of the Romanian prime minister attended the lunch.

Ends Visit, Leaves for Bucharest

BK1207005195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Romanian prime minister left Islamabad for Bucharest today, concluding his two-day official visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and others.

Official Talks Begin Between Government, MQM

'Sources' Comment at Outset

BK1107154295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between the delegations of government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]-Altaf group began in Islamabad this evening. The talks aim to normalize the situation in Karachi. The government delegation is led by N.D. Khan, minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, while the MQM-Altaf group delegation is led by Ajmal Dehlvi.

According to knowledgeable sources, the talks started with sincerity and in a cordial atmosphere. Both sides are expressing their viewpoint.

According to government sources, the talks are unconditional. The sources say the government team is taking part in the talks with an open heart to solve political problems through political means.

Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of MQM-Altaf group delegation, speaking to reporters on arrival in the federal capital expressed the hope that the talks will yield results. He said that his delegation is participating in the talks with full sincerity. He said they will try to find common ground for establishing peace in Karachi.

Negotiators: 'Progress' Made

BK1207015795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 12 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]-Altaf Group delegations have said they have made progress in the first round of talks held in Islamabad yesterday evening on the restoration of peace to Karachi. The two sides discussed a number of political issues and the law and order situation. The negotiating teams agreed that sincere efforts need to be made for the restoration of peace and tranquillity. They also agreed to resume the next round of talks at 1700 tomorrow evening [13 July] to discuss matters demanding urgent attention.

At yesterday's talks, the 18-point demands presented by the MQM-Altaf Group negotiating team were reviewed. A detailed discussion of these demands will be held in the next round of talks during which the government committee will also present its points for discussion. The government delegation to the talks was led by Professor N.D. Khan, the minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, who was accompanied by Afaq Shahid and Zuhair Akram Nadim. The MQM negotiating team consisted of Ajmal Dehlvi, Shoaib Bukhari, Kazi Khalid, Tariq Javed, and Sheikh Liaqat Hussain.

Later, in an interview, Ajmal Dehlvi, the MQM-Altaf Group team chief, said the talks are progressing well. He said at yesterday's talks, the two sides finalized modalities for the next round of discussions. Ajmal Dehlvi described the government's attitude as positive and said he is optimistic about the outcome of the talks. Prof. N.D. Khan, the minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, concurred with the views expressed by the MQM-Altaf Group delegation leader.

Editorial Views Change of Governors in Sindh

95AS0444B Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 23 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Change of Governor in Sindh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mehmood Haroon who has been off and on the governor of Sindh for a long time has resigned. The government accepted his resignation after some period of indecision and procrastination. Mr. Mehmood Haroon is one of the fortunate Pakistanis who has been able to stay in power during every Pakistani government. He was the home minister in President Ziaul Haq's cabinet for a long time. Later, after being out of office for a brief period, he was appointed governor of Sindh during the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] rule.

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When the present government came to power Hakeem Sayyed was Sindh's governor. He is highly respected by patriotic and intellectual circles in the whole nation. Due to the present regional and ethnic unrest in Sindh, his presence in the Governor's mansion was viewed with comfort and considered supportive by most people, especially those living in Karachi. However, this situation was not acceptable to some persons in power. They removed Mr. Sayyed without any reason and appointed Mehmood Haroon in his place.

Did Sindh benefit from this change? At least we are unaware of it. One reason of this lack of awareness is that Governor Mehmood Haroon is owner and manager of a major newspaper. He avoided meeting with the editors and senior journalists of other newspapers. This was perhaps his professional or business contingency. During the last one and half year, Punjab's governor, late Chowdhury Iltaf Hussain, repeatedly met with editors and senior journalists of newspapers all over the nation. However, the doors of Governor House in Karachi were closed to writers during Mehmood Haroon's tenure as governor. Still, it is necessary that officials at all levels should keep close relationship with newspapers and journalists in order to learn about the problems and difficulties they are facing and find solutions for them.

The new governor of Sindh, Mr. Kamal Azfar, is an elected senator and, therefore, represents the people. He cannot be specifically defined as a son of this land, however, can be called a son of a Muhajir. More than that, he is a Karachi resident and speaks and understands the language used by Karachites. Therefore, we can hope that he will listen to and understand the problems of Karachi residents. This way the feeling of deprivity felt by the majority residents of the largest city in Pakistan would be alleviated somewhat and ways to resolve problems would be found.

Our well-contemplated opinion about the present situation in Sindh, especially in Karachi, is that the solution of all problems lies in the cooperation between the leaders of PPP and the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM]. It is satisfactory to hear the new Governor Kamal Azfar proclaim that, "I will adopt an open door policy and will be willing to meet with anyone to help heal Karachi's wounds. My doors will be open to MQM also. I will try to be the bridge between the rural and urban populations of Sindh."

The analysis of the new governor is correct. He said, "Sindhis and Mohajirs are brothers and some elements have created misunderstanding between them for their own vested interests. I will help remove these misunderstandings. We must create harmonious environment here." Mr. Azfar also said that the president and the prime minister have given his special instructions about Sindh, especially Karachi. As governor of Sindh, his mission would be based on three initiatives: Cooperation and understanding in Sindh, end to lawlessness, and economic progress.

There is no doubt that this is the most concise analysis of and solution to Sindh's problems. Mr. Kamal Azfar is also an expert economist and he can easily understand that Karachi is very important as the center of nation's economic nerves and peace and law and order have fundamental importance in economic development. Karachi cannot stand on its own feet without first eradicating lawlessness. This will require cooperation and understanding which can be created only by the elected representatives of Karachi. A governor's political and administrative role is limited by the constitution, however, if the new governor makes sincere efforts and gets support from the federal and state governments, he will be successful in his role.

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